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JRN 120-5

NEWSWRITING AND REPORTING

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Students will be introduced to the basic writing style used in the preparation of news and feature material for the print media. The emphasis of the course is on interviewing, writing and rewriting. In addition to in-class assignments students will also be required to cover news stories outside the College. These may include covering court, covering meetings, and preparing individual news and feature assignments.

The City Editor of the Sault Daily Star, Homer Foster, will meet with the class for two hours each week. During this time he will discuss a specific type of news assignment and students will be given stories to write related to this area.

Students are expected to produce copy in acceptable style following the format outlined in the Canadian Press Style Book. Copy is evaluated on its suitability for publication, and unsatisfactory stories may be returned to the student for rewriting.

Students are continually being evaluated on the basis of the assignments they produce. All major assignments must be completed before a student will receive a final grade for the course.

Outline

Topics covered in this course will include:

- 1) WHAT IS NEWS? A basic discussion of the elements of a news story. Examination of stories from various sources, and an assignment to prepare stories from fact sheets*

- 2) BASIC ~~is~~ WAITING. How stories are obtained; how; additional facts are gathered; how these facts are presented in newspaper style; the importance of the lead paragraph; accuracy; attribution; checking facts.
- 3) EDITING MARKS AND CP STYLE. Use of standard editing marks to correct six errors, important aspects of CP style, use of capital s, spelling, numbers, etc*
- 4) LEADS. Various types of leads, the importance of the lead paragraph, evaluation and writing of leads for various types of stories
- 5) INTERVIEW TECHNIQUES. Preparation for an interview, questions, importance of Quotes, taking notes, use of tape recorders, writing the interview story, choosing an appropriate lead, using the telephone.
- 6) SPORTS REPORTING. Examination of sports stories and class discussion with a sports editor,, Students assigned to cover a sports event
- 7) FEATURE WRITING, Types of stories, how different from news, quotes, color, the lead, organization, transition.
- 3) PEOPLE'S PAGE WRITING, Examination of stories from the people's page and discussion with the People's Page Editor of the Sault Daily Star,
- 9) CIVIC ELECTIONS. Pre-election stories, interviewing candidates, candidate meetings, the press conference, election night coverage, the wrap-up.

- 10) POLICE REPORTING. Police as a source of news, accuracy, what can and cannot be used, follow-up,
- 11) COURT REPORTING. Importance of court coverage, accuracy, style, legal restrictions,, Students will cover a session of provincial judge's court.
- 12) SURVEYS, Designing the survey, telephone surveys, personal interviews, tabulating the results.

Note: Some of the scheduled class hours will be used as writing labs for students to work on current assignments, or to rewrite unsatisfactory stories,,