

Reporting & Feature Writing

Introduction

This module develops and nurtures students' news report and feature article writing skills. It is designed to boost student's confidence in their report and feature researching, interviewing, self-expression and editing skills. Additionally it covers the areas of personal safety and freelance journalistic careers. The module also affords students the opportunity to explore contemporary media theory and practice related to the threats and opportunities afforded by online journalism.

Aims

This module aims to enable the student to:

- Produce high quality news reports and equip them with a practical and theoretical understanding of online and print based news reporting.
- Produce high quality feature articles and equip them with a practical and theoretical understanding of online and print based feature writing.
- Attain the skills required for successful journalistic interviewing.
- Take advantage of theoretical grasp of how the internet has and is changing journalistic content, presentation, audience and revenue streams.
- Pursue a career as a staff or freelance journalist conscious of issues of personal conduct and safety

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module, the student should be able to:

- Demonstrate the skills required to conceive of, research, write, edit and critically analyse their own high quality news reports.
- Demonstrate the skills required to conceive of, research, write, edit and critically analyse their own high quality feature articles.
- Understand the process of successful journalistic interviewing.
- Understand how to pursue a career as a freelance journalist and to understand the key points around journalistic health and safety issues.
- Critically analyse online journalistic content and online media trends, displaying an understanding of the opportunities for the practical application of theoretical analysis.

Indicative Module Content

News Report Writing: The art of thinking and acting prior to writing draft one.

Feature Article Writing: Difference between features and news reports.

Writing Well: The 5 W's & H; how to fine-tune one's writing from draft one; journalistic style; self-editing.

Successful Interviewing: What to do before, during and after an interview so as to ensure its success.

Health & Safety: Moral issues, self-protection; the limits of reporting.

Freelancing

Creative Spaces: The impact of online technologies on staff and freelance news and feature writers.

Citizen Journalism: Conglomeration and the public sphere; online news reporting in flux.