

Project 2: The News Summary and Short Bio – 10 points, 250 words

Purpose: Learn how to compose rhetorically effective short news stories; learn how to write a concise, professional biography

Audience: Your instructor, your peers, the world

The Assignment

The news summary and short bio assignment asks you to compose two 100-word news stories using the genre conventions of your favorite news site and to accompany them with a 50-word biography. In the world of web writing, brevity and accuracy are paramount. This assignment allows you to practice the art of short news writing. The challenge, of course, is the word count limit and the ability to report all the facts in a clear, accurate way. For this assignment, please choose “hard news” stories only—stories that report just the facts. To help you better understand the journalistic genre, you may want to visit this page from the Purdue OWL: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/735/1/>.

The short bio is a genre that is often overlooked, but it is very important when you begin publishing. However, one of the hardest topics to write about (so that others will read and care) is you. Some questions that might invite writer’s block for the bio are: What do I say? How do I sound professional but also inviting, so that people will want to have a drink with me? How do I write a short bio without sounding narcissistic? This is your chance to refine your bio writing ability. Like the news stories, brevity and accuracy are paramount for the bio. Here are some things to remember: charm and humor should be used with caution; irony and sarcasm are becoming passé and are generally viewed as unprofessional; relaxed, confident professionalism never goes out of style. Please include current contact information in your bio.

Goals of the Assignment

The goals of Project 2 are to accomplish the following:

- Writing Process – Develop various strategies for planning, researching, drafting, revising, and editing news summaries and a short bio
- Research – Use secondary research to learn about the journalistic and summary genres, as well as the short bio genre
- Technology – Use Squarespace to design and post your work
- Document Design – Use rhetorically informed design theory (HATS, CARP) and appropriate technology to create a professional looking page for your posts.

Format

Your summaries *must* adhere to the Associated Press (AP) style (see the Purdue OWL link above). You will want to use a good mix of credible sources as you compose your summary.

Revision

While you will be able to revise all of your work to post to your online portfolio, you will only be able to revise *one* assignment for submission at the end of the term, which will be due on our final exam day. I will average your first grade with your revised grade for your final mark.