

Columbia Scholastic Press Association

Summer Journalism Workshop 2008

Newspaper Reporting & Writing (section 3)

Sequence description

This sequence is designed to have students leave the Columbia campus with their practical journalism skills enhanced and their journalistic judgment matured.

Students will learn:

- how to write informative, interesting and entertaining news and feature articles
- techniques of reporting, interviewing and writing, including gathering information through the Web and conducting email interviews
- how to fashion sentences, paragraphs and quotes for accuracy and readability
- how journalistic writing can be creative
- how to write, rewrite and copyedit articles for correctness, completeness, structure and style
- how to keep one's own opinions and feelings out of news and feature articles yet still convey the emotions and humanity of an event, issue or situation
- how to see news and feature story possibilities everywhere, in and out of school
- how to write articles that affect readers' lives, attitudes, emotions and thinking
- how to think like a journalist
- how to deal with censorship and criticism of the school paper

Assignments will include:

- writing a news article and a feature article; covering a press conference
- an article based on a speech; an article about someone on the Columbia campus
- an in-depth interview with an individual who has a significant story to tell
- exercises in journalistic writing that is clear, accurate, concise and graceful
- analyzing and evaluating school newspapers
- exercises in descriptive writing
- using humor as an element in news and feature writing
- recognizing editorializing in news and features
- copyediting your own and classmates' writing