



JOUR12039 News Writing and Reporting

Term 1 - 2020

Profile information current as at 08/05/2024 10:50 am

All details in this unit profile for JOUR12039 have been officially approved by CQUniversity and represent a learning partnership between the University and you (our student). The information will not be changed unless absolutely necessary and any change will be clearly indicated by an approved correction included in the profile.

General Information

Overview

News Writing & Reporting is designed to extend and develop the knowledge and skills gained in Media Writing. The exercises and assignments provide instruction and practice in news writing and news-gathering for print, online, and broadcast environments. Students are required to actively engage with their local community, reporting on events and community organisations, local courts, municipal councils and local political issues. Students are also expected to engage with contemporary media issues that impact on news writing, such as ethics, law, representation, and ownership.

Details

Career Level: *Undergraduate*

Unit Level: *Level 2*

Credit Points: 6

Student Contribution Band: 10

Fraction of Full-Time Student Load: 0.125

Pre-requisites or Co-requisites

Prerequisite:- COMM11007 plus JOUR11005

Important note: Students enrolled in a subsequent unit who failed their pre-requisite unit, should drop the subsequent unit before the census date or within 10 working days of Fail grade notification. Students who do not drop the unit in this timeframe cannot later drop the unit without academic and financial liability. See details in the [Assessment Policy and Procedure \(Higher Education Coursework\)](#).

Offerings For Term 1 - 2020

- Online
- Rockhampton

Attendance Requirements

All on-campus students are expected to attend scheduled classes – in some units, these classes are identified as a mandatory (pass/fail) component and attendance is compulsory. International students, on a student visa, must maintain a full time study load and meet both attendance and academic progress requirements in each study period (satisfactory attendance for International students is defined as maintaining at least an 80% attendance record).

Website

[This unit has a website, within the Moodle system, which is available two weeks before the start of term. It is important that you visit your Moodle site throughout the term. Please visit Moodle for more information.](#)

Class and Assessment Overview

Recommended Student Time Commitment

Each 6-credit Undergraduate unit at CQUniversity requires an overall time commitment of an average of 12.5 hours of study per week, making a total of 150 hours for the unit.

Class Timetable

[Regional Campuses](#)

Bundaberg, Cairns, Emerald, Gladstone, Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville

[Metropolitan Campuses](#)

Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney

Assessment Overview

1. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 70%

2. **Group Discussion**

Weighting: 30%

Assessment Grading

This is a graded unit: your overall grade will be calculated from the marks or grades for each assessment task, based on the relative weightings shown in the table above. You must obtain an overall mark for the unit of at least 50%, or an overall grade of 'pass' in order to pass the unit. If any 'pass/fail' tasks are shown in the table above they must also be completed successfully ('pass' grade). You must also meet any minimum mark requirements specified for a particular assessment task, as detailed in the 'assessment task' section (note that in some instances, the minimum mark for a task may be greater than 50%). Consult the [University's Grades and Results Policy](#) for more details of interim results and final grades.

CQUniversity Policies

All University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

You may wish to view these policies:

- Grades and Results Policy
- Assessment Policy and Procedure (Higher Education Coursework)
- Review of Grade Procedure
- Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – Domestic Students
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – International Students
- Student Refund and Credit Balance Policy and Procedure
- Student Feedback – Compliments and Complaints Policy and Procedure
- Information and Communications Technology Acceptable Use Policy and Procedure

This list is not an exhaustive list of all University policies. The full list of University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

Previous Student Feedback

Feedback, Recommendations and Responses

Every unit is reviewed for enhancement each year. At the most recent review, the following staff and student feedback items were identified and recommendations were made.

Feedback from Term 1 2019 Student Evaluation comments.

Feedback

Students commented on the effectiveness and how much they enjoyed hearing from guest speakers in their areas of expertise.

Recommendation

It is recommended to retain the guest speakers and supplementary material and update where necessary.

Feedback from Term 1 2019 Student Evaluation comments.

Feedback

Students commented favourably on the practical nature of the assessments including learning how to write for different journalism genres.

Recommendation

It is recommended to retain the practical journalism elements of the assessments.

Unit Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Exercise journalistic writing skills and research techniques to produce general news stories for print, online, and broadcast distribution
2. Apply appropriate news criteria when using news-gathering skills to address news and current affairs in a general news writing context
3. Critique and discuss issues relevant to news writing in a contemporary media environment

Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes



Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes		
	1	2	3
1 - Written Assessment - 70%	•	•	•
2 - Group Discussion - 30%		•	•

Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Learning Outcomes

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes		
	1	2	3
1 - Communication	•	•	•

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes		
	1	2	3
2 - Problem Solving	•		
3 - Critical Thinking	•	•	•
4 - Information Literacy	•		•
5 - Team Work			
6 - Information Technology Competence	•		
7 - Cross Cultural Competence	•		•
8 - Ethical practice	•	•	•
9 - Social Innovation			
10 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures			

Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Graduate Attributes

Assessment Tasks	Graduate Attributes									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1 - Written Assessment - 70%	•	•	•	•			•	•		
2 - Group Discussion - 30%	•		•	•		•				

Textbooks and Resources

Textbooks

JOUR12039

Prescribed

Advanced Reporting - Essential Skills for 21st Century Journalism

(2015)

Authors: Miles Maguire

Routledge (Taylor and Francis Group)

New York , New York , USA

ISBN: 978-0-415-82428-6

Binding: Paperback

Additional Textbook Information

Copies are available for purchase at the CQUni Bookshop here: <http://bookshop.cqu.edu.au> (search on the Unit code)

[View textbooks at the CQUniversity Bookshop](#)

IT Resources

You will need access to the following IT resources:

- CQUniversity Student Email
- Internet
- Unit Website (Moodle)

Referencing Style

All submissions for this unit must use the referencing style: [American Psychological Association 6th Edition \(APA 6th edition\)](#)

For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

Teaching Contacts

Lincoln Bertoli Unit Coordinator

l.bertoli@cqu.edu.au

Schedule

Week 1 - 09 Mar 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Introduction to News Writing and Reporting Lesson One will review media writing principles from past units, focusing on techniques required to craft an effective news story.	Maguire, Chapter 1, 2 pp. 3 - 39	

Week 2 - 16 Mar 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Principles of News Writing This lesson will re-introduce the concept of 'news values' in journalistic writing and further develop knowledge of writing in the journalistic style including the use of the 5Ws and H and Inverted Pyramid.	See Study Guide Lessons	

Week 3 - 23 Mar 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
News Gathering Lesson Three will investigate the news gathering process, different types of sources, including primary and secondary and the importance of networking and contact development in the role of a journalist.	Maguire, Chapters 3, 4, 5 pp. 40 - 94	DRAFT Story 1 - General News Story. Due: Week 3 Friday (27 March 2020) 5:00 pm AEST

Week 4 - 30 Mar 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Sources, 'Voice' and Representation Lesson Four will cover the use of credible sources and the appropriate voice for story writing. Students will also learn the difference of use between direct quotes and paraphrasing when crafting a news story.	See study guide lessons	

Week 5 - 06 Apr 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Reporting Institutions: Court and Government This lesson will cover how the court system works in Australia, the roles of various personnel working in the judicial system and the behavioural requirements to attend, report on and write news stories based on a court case. Reporting on the three levels of government will also be discussed.	Maguire, Chapters 6, 7 pp. 97 - 132	DRAFT Story 2 - Broadcast News Story. Due: Week 5 Friday (10 April 2020) 5:00 pm AEST

Vacation Week - 13 Apr 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Vacation Week	N/A	

Week 6 - 20 Apr 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Reporting Institutions: Corporations Lesson Six will cover some of the issues associated with researching information within a corporate context; and explain the process of contacting and attributing information to a corporate source.	Maguire, Chapters 9, 10, 12	

Week 7 - 27 Apr 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Reporting Minorities This lesson will investigate the issues associated with reporting minorities. Students will also assess their own attitudes toward minority groups and discuss how these may impact on the reporting of an issue.	See Study Guide Lessons	

Week 8 - 04 May 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Integrated Media

On successful completion of this lesson, students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the differences and similarities between writing for print, online, and broadcast media.

See Study Guide Lessons

Week 9 - 11 May 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Ethics and Legals in Journalism Lesson Nine will explore ethical and legal issues as they relate to journalistic practice.	Maguire, Chapters 12, 13 pp. 207 - 242	ASSESSMENT 2 - Forum Posts/Unit Engagement Due: Week 9 Monday (11 May 2020) 5:00 pm AEST ASSESSMENT 2 - Forum Posts/Unit Engagement Due: Week 9 Monday (11 May 2020) 5:00 pm AEST

Week 10 - 18 May 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Editing Some of many roles in which a journalist may be employed during the course of their career include specific editorial roles - sub-editor, photo editor, copyeditor, deputy editor or editor. Upon successful completion of this week's lesson, students will be able to describe the range of editing roles in journalistic contexts, and apply editorial principles to their own work.	See Study Guide Lessons	

Week 11 - 25 May 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Tools of the Trade Journalism is no longer purely about writing, but creating content. Lesson 11 will explore the concept of becoming a 'one-person band' and the subsequent ability to produce complete media packages.	Maguire, Chapter 11 pp. 189 - 206	

Week 12 - 01 Jun 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Adaption: Extending the Life of Your Story This lesson will conclude the unit by encouraging students to consider the future and examining the necessary tools to give a story/topic 'extra life'.	See Study Guide Lessons	

Review/Exam Week - 08 Jun 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
		Assessment 1 - News Stories Portfolio Due: Review/Exam Week Monday (8 Jun 2020) 5.00 pm AEST Assessment 1 - News Stories Portfolio Due: Review/Exam Week Monday (8 June 2020) 5:00 pm AEST

Exam Week - 15 Jun 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Assessment Tasks

1 Assessment 1 - News Stories Portfolio

Assessment Type

Written Assessment

Task Description

This assessment requires you to research, write, and review Six (6) news stories that demonstrate quality in news writing and reporting. The required stories are as follows:

1 and 2: These are based on provided material available on the Moodle site, and are designed to revise your skills, hone your attention to detail and eye for an angle or hook. Stories 1 and 2 are:

- 1: General news story – Materials supplied by teaching staff (350 words)
- 2: General news story – Broadcast Story. Materials supplied by teaching staff. Must be written in broadcast format including grabs and shot listing. (1min 15 seconds).

3 and 4: These stories require you to conduct basic reporting within a framework. Stories 3 and 4 are:

- 3: News story – Sport-based news story. You need to attend and report on a sporting event. Your story must include quotes from interviews with a coach and a player. (350 words)
- 4: News story – court or government: A report based on a meeting of your local Shire or Regional Council, or a report from a local court. Your report must include quotes from sources. (350 words)

5: This story requires you to localise a national story.

- 5: News story - Local news story based on national issue, localised to regional/city level. Your story should include two local sources as a minimum. (500 words)

6: This is your main piece. It is a longer story and should investigate an issue. (650 - 1,000 words)

- 6: Feature story. You have some options for this story.

Option 1: You may work with a news publication to submit a feature story for publication, including the CQUniNEWS e-magazine which regularly publishes graduate profiles and feature articles detailing community engagement initiatives. (You will need to discuss your idea with the unit coordinator or local teaching staff to ensure suitability. This will be done on a case by case basis.) You should submit an email or letter from the editor/chief of staff providing evidence that the story is your work.

Option 2: Choose a topic you are passionate about and produce an in-depth feature article. Your topic must be newsworthy and you will be expected to confirm with the Unit Coordinator if you are unsure of the suitability of the topic.

You must submit a news cover sheet as your title page with each story. Cover sheets are available on the Moodle site.
Timelines for submission

You will be required to submit **Story 1 by Friday, Week 3, and Story 2 by Friday, Week 5**. This is so we can assess your drafts and provide feedback early in the unit. You may elect to submit earlier but will need to advise your teaching staff when you submit.

You will then devise your own submission timelines for stories 3 to 6. You must submit a proposed timeline to teaching staff of your proposed deadlines for the final four stories. This timeline will be submitted by Friday Week 5. This allows you to manage your time and priorities. You will then be assessed on your ability to manage your own time and adherence to deadlines while still giving you flexibility to cover the required stories within the context of your location and life circumstance. (Note - your final draft story will need to be submitted by the end of Week 10 to allow teaching staff adequate time to provide feedback before you submit your portfolio of all six stories)

Submissions and re-submissions of draft stories

- Original submissions will be made via the Moodle site.
- You must retain copies of your original drafts as you will also include these to illustrate improvement when you submit your portfolio.

Portfolio

At the end of term, you will compile your stories as a single portfolio (Word document). This portfolio will comprise:

- A title page
- a Table of Contents
- 12 stories (your original and final version of each story)
- a short description of what you did to improve each article in response to feedback (2 paragraphs).

The portfolio should be structured as follows:

- Story 1:
Version 1
Final Version
Response to Feedback
- Story 2
Version 1
Final Version
Response to Feedback

You will be required to self-assess your work and respond to the lecturer's feedback. Further guidance on this assessment will be provided on the Moodle site.

Assessment Due Date

Review/Exam Week Monday (8 June 2020) 5:00 pm AEST

Assessment schedule for draft stories to be set by student. Final portfolio of completed stories due by Monday 8 June 2020

Return Date to Students

Exam Week Monday (15 June 2020)

Draft stories will be returned within one week of submission during term. The final portfolio will generally be returned within two weeks of submission.

Weighting

70%

Assessment Criteria

Individual stories will be graded pass (publishable) /fail (to resubmit ONCE) and will be marked against the following criteria:

Ability to write news stories to publishable standard, requiring you to:

- Exercise journalistic writing skills and research techniques to produce general news stories for print, online, and broadcast distribution
- Apply appropriate news criteria when using news-gathering skills to address news and current affairs in a general news writing context
- Demonstrate awareness of issues relevant to news writing in a contemporary media environment

You will receive an overall grade for your approach to this assessment which will be influenced by your response to feedback, re-submissions required, and timeliness of submissions.

Referencing Style

- [American Psychological Association 6th Edition \(APA 6th edition\)](#)

Submission

Online

Submission Instructions

Submit via Moodle site

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Exercise journalistic writing skills and research techniques to produce general news stories for print, online, and broadcast distribution
- Apply appropriate news criteria when using news-gathering skills to address news and current affairs in a general news writing context
- Critique and discuss issues relevant to news writing in a contemporary media environment

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Cross Cultural Competence
- Ethical practice

2 ASSESSMENT 2 – Forum Posts/Unit Engagement

Assessment Type

Group Discussion

Task Description

All students (distance and on-campus) will be expected to contribute to forum discussions during the term. Each week between Weeks 1 and 8, the Unit Coordinator will post a discussion item to which you are expected to respond, with references, on the forum. This discussion will be related to current issues or designed to assist your story research and writing. Responses should be approximately 200 words each. You must contribute to all discussions.

During Week 9, you will compile **six of your best responses**, and submit these as a Word document to the Assessment 2 Assignment submission. You will need to write a sentence against each response that describes how the activity contributed to your learning. You are able to edit your original posts for submission, and should ensure that your posts are appropriately referenced where relevant.

Further guidance on this assessment will be provided on the Moodle site.

NOTE: WORD COUNT for written assignments:

The word count is considered from the first word of the introduction to the last word of the conclusion. It excludes the cover page, abstract, contents page, reference page and appendices. It includes in-text references and direct quotations.

Assessment Due Date

Week 9 Monday (11 May 2020) 5:00 pm AEST

Weekly; Final submission due Monday Week 9

Return Date to Students

Week 11 Monday (25 May 2020)

Assessments will generally be returned to students within two weeks of submission.

Weighting

30%

Assessment Criteria

Submissions will be marked against the following criteria:

- Reflection and response
- Writing standard
- Evidence of research

Referencing Style

- [American Psychological Association 6th Edition \(APA 6th edition\)](#)

Submission

Online

Submission Instructions

Submit via Moodle site

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Apply appropriate news criteria when using news-gathering skills to address news and current affairs in a general news writing context
- Critique and discuss issues relevant to news writing in a contemporary media environment

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Information Technology Competence

Academic Integrity Statement

As a CQUniversity student you are expected to act honestly in all aspects of your academic work.

Any assessable work undertaken or submitted for review or assessment must be your own work. Assessable work is any type of work you do to meet the assessment requirements in the unit, including draft work submitted for review and feedback and final work to be assessed.

When you use the ideas, words or data of others in your assessment, you must thoroughly and clearly acknowledge the source of this information by using the correct referencing style for your unit. Using others' work without proper acknowledgement may be considered a form of intellectual dishonesty.

Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in your university study ensures the CQUniversity qualification you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

As a student, you are responsible for reading and following CQUniversity's policies, including the [Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure](#). This policy sets out CQUniversity's expectations of you to act with integrity, examples of academic integrity breaches to avoid, the processes used to address alleged breaches of academic integrity, and potential penalties.

What is a breach of academic integrity?

A breach of academic integrity includes but is not limited to plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion, cheating, contract cheating, and academic misconduct. The Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure defines what these terms mean and gives examples.

Why is academic integrity important?

A breach of academic integrity may result in one or more penalties, including suspension or even expulsion from the University. It can also have negative implications for student visas and future enrolment at CQUniversity or elsewhere. Students who engage in contract cheating also risk being blackmailed by contract cheating services.

Where can I get assistance?

For academic advice and guidance, the [Academic Learning Centre \(ALC\)](#) can support you in becoming confident in completing assessments with integrity and of high standard.

What can you do to act with integrity?

**Be Honest**

If your assessment task is done by someone else, it would be dishonest of you to claim it as your own

**Seek Help**

If you are not sure about how to cite or reference in essays, reports etc, then seek help from your lecturer, the library or the Academic Learning Centre (ALC)

**Produce Original Work**

Originality comes from your ability to read widely, think critically, and apply your gained knowledge to address a question or problem