

COURSE OUTLINE

**Journalism 107  
Magazine Writing**

I. **Catalog Statement**

Journalism 107 focuses on feature writing for magazines and newspapers. Students learn how to find feature ideas and develop them into articles for student or professional publications. The creative, story-telling side of journalism is stressed. The free-lance market for feature writers is discussed.

Total Lecture Units: 3.0

**Total Course Units: 3.0**

Total Lecture Hours: 48.0

**Total Faculty Contact Hours: 48.0**

Recommended Preparation: Eligibility for English 101

II. **Course Entry Expectations**

Skills Level Ranges: Reading: 5; Writing: 6; Speaking/Listening: 6; Math: 1

III. **Course Exit Standards**

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

1. compare and contrast various strategies for finding and marketing feature article ideas;
2. discover areas of expertise and interest that each student can parley into a feature-writing specialty;
3. organize diverse and possible conflicting information into a coherent article framework;
4. communicate factual information in writing in an informative and entertaining way;
5. develop interviewing, note-taking, and critical thinking skills integral to researching a feature article.

IV. <b><u>Course Content</u></b>	<b>Total Faculty Contact Hours= 48</b>
A. What is a feature story? Examples of feature stories and where they can be found	3 hours
B. Feature story leads (anecdote, vignette, quote, 5 W and other types) and how they fit with thesis sentences	6 hours
C. Developing and outline for a feature article	3 hours
1. How to organize notes under headings	
2. How to use direct quotes, paraphrases, factual information, imagery, and “helper leads”	
D. Interviewing	3 hours
1. How to prepare	
2. Taking written notes vs. using a tape recorder	
E. Developing article ideas	3 hours
1. Finding personal areas of interest and expertise	
2. Tailoring ideas to particular publications	
F. Query letters	3 hours
G. Presentation of first articles for critique	3 hours
H. Types of articles that editors like: lifestyle, health and fitness, now-to	3 hours
I. More popular types of articles: financial, evergreen, travel	3 hours
J. Presentation of second article for critique	3 hours
K. Writing with computer to increase creativity and productivity	3 hours
L. Opinion articles, columns, and critical reviews	3 hours
M. Journalistic ethics	3 hours
N. Media law	3 hours
O. Presentation of third article for critique	3 hours

V. **Methods of Instruction**

The following methods of instruction may be used in the course:

1. class lecture and discussion;
2. group learning;

3. guest speakers;
4. feature article written by the students submitted to both student and professional publications.

VI. **Out of Class Assignments**

The following out of class assignments may be used in the course:

1. three feature-length articles.

VII. **Methods of Evaluation**

The following methods of evaluation may be used in the course:

1. three feature articles;
2. a mid-term examination based on fact sheets, in-class speakers, or presentations;
3. a final examination based on fact sheets, in-class speakers, or presentations.

VIII. **Textbook**

Friedlander, *Feature Writing for Newspapers & Magazines*.

New Jersey: Allyn & Bacon, Inc., 2007. 6th edition. Print.  
12th Grade Textbook Reading Level ISBN: 13:97-802054846-69

IX. **Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will:

1. know how to find and market feature article ideas;
2. have found an area of interest and expertise to develop into a feature-writing specialty;
3. communicate factual information in writing in an informative and entertaining way;
4. demonstrate interviewing, note-taking, and critical thinking skills integral to researching a feature article;
5. organize research, including interviews, into a complete feature article.