

Pitch - 20pts

For this story you will be assigned a different beat and be expected to cover that beat from a news or short feature angle. Your story can be about any topic within that beat and can be "newsworthy" to either the greater State College area or your hometown. You can cover national news but remember readers will most interested if the story links back to the local community. Your topic must be timely and relevant to the audience designated by your beat assignment. Your story cannot be an opinion or editorial. It must be based on research and gathered interviews along with providing a fair and balanced review of the news event or person(s) being featured.

The lab meeting on Wednesday, March 17 will mimic a news room weekly meeting in which you will pitch your story idea to the class and receive feedback. Your pitch should be as well researched, thought out, and organized as it can be. The more complete your idea, the better the feedback you will receive. Your idea will receive final approval from the instructor. Turn in a written form of your pitch by 8 a.m. on March 19 that includes the following:

- Proposed subject of story
- Where the idea came from
- Research you've already done
- Names and titles of proposed interviewees (minimum three interviews)
- Other sources you expect to use, and why

Beat Assignments:

- Business and Finance:
- Crime and Justice:
- Education:
- Sports:
- Arts and Entertainment:
- Food and Dining:
- Science and Health:
- Religion:
- Politics:

Peer Review - 15pts

All Peer Review assignments will follow these guidelines:

- Provide written and (sometimes) oral feedback to your partner(s)
- Each worth 15 points
- Graded based on the feedback you provide NOT the feedback you receive

Beat Assignment Peer Review Format:

- Your peer review partner(s) are based on your beat assignments (see below)
- Share a draft of your story by 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, March 24
- Complete the peer review by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, March 26
- Steps for peer review
 - Schedule a time to meet before the deadline (either physically or over Zoom, whatever you/your partner(s) are comfortable with)
 - Exchange copies of your stories
 - **Read your story out loud** to your partner(s)
 - While the story is being read, your partner(s) should be taking notes
 - Partners should then discuss their notes and feedback with each other
 - Exchange notes with your partner after reviewing them
 - **Upload a digital copy (either typed or a picture) of the notes you took before the deadline**

Groups:

- Business and Finance:
- Crime and Justice:
- Education:
- Sports:
- Arts and Entertainment:
- Food and Dining:
- Science and Health:
- Religion:
- Politics:

Overall Elements:

- Clear writing
- Follows AP Style
- Meets minimum word requirements
- Informative and interesting quotes
- Fits within the assigned beat

Questions to ask yourself while reviewing:

- Does the story meet the assignment requirements?
- Does it provide all the information promised in the lead?
- If you started reading this story in a newspaper or online, would you read the whole thing? Would you want to read this story?
- Which sentence aside from the lead was the strongest? Which was the weakest?
- Were you confused about the story's content at any point?
- Are there opinion statements or does the story editorialize?
- Are there enough quotes? Too many quotes?
- Is there enough background information?
- Is the story balanced?
- Is there a strong lead?
- Does the lead grab your attention, and address the "so what?"
- What words could they take out?
- Does your peer use any descriptive words? If so, what?
- Are all the elements of an the assignment here?

Beat Assignment Story - 50pts

For this story you will be assigned a different beat and be expected to cover that beat from a news or short feature angle. Your story can be about any topic within that beat and can be "newsworthy" to either the greater State College area or your hometown. You can cover national news but remember readers will most interested if the story links back to the local community. Your topic must be timely and relevant to the audience designated by your beat assignment. Your story cannot be an opinion or editorial. It must be based on research and gathered interviews along with providing a fair and balanced review of the news event or person(s) being featured.

Details:

- The lab meeting on Wednesday, March 17 will mimic a news room weekly meeting in which you will [pitch your story idea](#) to the class and receive feedback. Your pitch should be as well researched, thought out, and organized as it can be. The more complete your idea, the better the feedback you will receive. Your idea will receive final approval from the instructor.
- [Turn in a final pitch](#) in written form on Friday, March 19
- Complete a peer review by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, March 26
- Final version of your story is due on Wednesday, March 31 at 11:59 p.m. including all interview and research notes.

- Your story must be at least 750 words, include at least three interviews, and follow the course's submission and format guidelines. As always, it should include a strong lede and follow AP style guidelines.
- **Beat Assignments:**
 - Business and Finance:
 - Crime and Justice:
 - Education:
 - Sports:
 - Arts and Entertainment:
 - Food and Dining:
 - Science and Health:
 - Religion:
 - Politics:

Revision - 40pts

Rewrite your Beat Assignment Story based on my editing suggestions and feedback. Your story must be developed further than just incorporating the my suggested edits. Stories that only "accept" my track changes without other revisions will not receive full credit. Consider what parts could use more information, does anything need to be restructured, were there confusing parts that could be reworded, are additional quotes needed, did you interview enough sources, where there relevant developments in the story since your first submission, etc.

Turn in your revised version by April 16 at 11:59 p.m. to this Canvas dropbox.