

ENG 208 – Introduction to Digital Journalism
Dragan

Final Project – Profile of a Person

PRELIM. VERSION DUE DATE: TUE., DEC. 1st, 2020**

Final Project Description

Our Final Project is to do a 'Profile of a Person' based on a phone (or video) interview – with 5 to 7 photos with captions collected from your subject's social media accounts showing their work / life.

- **WRITTEN COPY:** 500 min. – 750 words max.

Make sure your story has an effective **lede** that sets the scene and engages the reader, a **nut graf** that orients the reader and tells us some facts (answering some of the 5W1H journalistic questions) about your subject's life / work, **direct quotes** in the story body; and a **kicker** with an interesting ending quote. *Most published features stories have these features, and editors will expect this from your work too!*

- **5 – 7 PHOTOS WITH MEANINGFUL CAPTIONS (AND PHOTO CREDITS)**

Every story should have a main or FEATURED image that focuses the story on your WordPress blog plus 5+ additional photo with captions.

Since you are doing **remote reporting** for this story, you should harvest / collect appropriate images from your subject's **social media presence** (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.) with photo credits. (For example: **Photo credit: Instagram**). It's also possible to do a screen grab during a video interview, but that's not required. (Doing an interview by phone is great real-world practice for this story!)

Apart from a main / 'featured' image, there are 3 ways to publish these additional photos that accompany this piece:

- 1) As inline photos with your story (easiest). See the Week 5 materials on 'Adding a WordPress Story with Photos' on how to do this. (This approach will give you experience with basic WordPress administration, which is a job skill you can put on a resume.)

2) Experiment with the default WordPress Slideshow control (more on this soon).

3) Use the 'professional-grade' MetaSlider Pro plugin in WordPress on our shared blog on eng208.wordpress.com to create an interactive slideshow. See the guide and video from Week 6 on how to use this plugin.

For this type of story, you will provide a LINK to your story on your WordPress blog to the slideshow on eng208.wordpress.com since the slideshow will be hosted there.

We have professional examples for you to look at, but remember, we are aiming for a level of work that could be published – with minor revisions – on a CUNY student newspaper or similar.

Here are some ideas to help you think of a person (subject) to profile:

- Maybe your subject **paints, writes, plays music, or has an original interest / hobby** (even if they are not famous or even earning a living at it)? Or course, aspiring actors, artists and musicians (i.e., LaGuardia students!) would fit this category of personal profile.
- Tell the story of a '**decision point**' in your subject's life. How did they decide to move to a new country? Maybe they survived a war, an illness or otherwise overcame an obstacle?
- Perhaps your subject has had an interesting **job or work** experience? Profiling work – and the work environment – can lead to good photos and stories.
- **Small business owners** (for 'authentic' places in NYC) would make a great subjects for this piece. *Unfortunately this kind of story probably requires firsthand reporting which we aren't doing this year because of the pandemic.*
- Perhaps your subject's life says something about a '**lost or vanishing world**' of **New York City or Queens**? (For example, profiling a boxer or gym manager at a small gym would make a great piece for this assignment as would interviewing the owner of a small business that doesn't 'fit' into the 21st-century version of our city.) *Unfortunately this kind of story also probably requires firsthand reporting.*

Following journalistic ethics, please try not to interview a friend or family member for your source. You'll get much more out of this assignment if you go out of your comfort zone and find a real story and source to interview. *Because of the pandemic, I can understand if you have to interview a family member, but your piece will not be 'publishable' (generally) if you choose this option. At the very least, choose a family member who does not live in the same household with you.*

!!!! IMPORTANT: NO F2F INTERVIEWS DURING THE PANDEMIC. DO YOUR INTERVIEW BY PHONE (RECOMMENDED FOR REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE DOING INTERVIEWS) OR A VIDEO CHAT. AS PER CUNY POLICY, F2F REPORTING IS PROHIBITED DURING THE PANDEMIC AND WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR CREDIT.

MILESTONES

Here are the milestones for this project:

1) Blog Assignment #3 – Write a ‘Pitch’ for Your Final Project – DUE TUE. 11/17 (11:59 pm)

This blog assignment will let you write up your idea for a piece to get some feedback from your instructor.

2) Preliminary Version – DUE TUE. 12/1 (11:59 pm)

You should post a preliminary version of your project to your blog (with linked files as appropriate). It may not be finished yet. Please try to get the written copy into shape, though (with a draft **lede**, **nut graf**, interview quotes and a **kicker**) for feedback / improvement.

3) Revised Version with Photos – DUE FRI. 12/11 (11:59 pm)

Based on instructor and student feedback on your work, you should improve your digital story and post a revised, final version on your blog by this due date. Aim for a ‘profile of a person’ piece that could be published in an online student newspaper at CUNY or digital journalism site with minor improvements. Also, please turn in your interview notes in support of your Final Project.