

Mission Statement

In the City College journalism program students prepare to shape the conversation of the culture. They gear up to live as engaged citizens, critical readers, writers, and producers of a vast array of media texts. Here, students become acquainted with the values, traditions, and professional practices of democratic journalism. They acquire the tools with which to form questions, gather information, and reflect on its meaning for distinct audiences. And they learn to organize and present that information in imaginative and compelling ways. Our students are encouraged to draw on their own diverse backgrounds, neighborhoods, life struggles, and storytelling traditions and, in so doing, to recapture the democratic spirit that historically has separated journalism from other forms of media. We challenge students to mine their own knowledge of urban communities and problems, to introduce new voices and new perspectives into the mainstream, and to enrich—some might say to salvage our public discourse.

Learning Outcomes

Student with a Minor in Journalism will

- Students will know how to use a newspaper, magazine, and other forms of journalism as practical resources in their daily lives. They will be able to discuss current events, form opinions, and participate in public life.
- They will understand the traditional roles of the press in democratic societies and the core principles that mark the difference between journalism and other media of mass communication. They will be acquainted with the professional practices of reporters, editors, publishers, and producers, as well as with the ethical and legal challenges they face and the risks and benefits of media convergence.
- Students will build a vocabulary for identifying the different sections and elements of a publication or broadcast, the distinctive forms of journalistic texts (news, features,

opinion...), and the rhetorical devices and narrative conventions they employ (leads, quotes, teasers, kickers...).

- They will develop criteria for evaluating news judgment, sourcing, newsgathering techniques and the authority of facts, as well as the concision, clarity, and originality of written, aural, and visual language and the utility of different narrative strategies. Students will be able to make use of these criteria to critique news coverage for content, style, and overall effectiveness.
- Students will be proficient in the art of taking notes, reporting with accuracy and precision, double checking and corroborating information, and rarely if ever making exaggerated claims about what they actually know. They will know the value of and methods for keeping the record straight. In any meeting, they will be the ones others look to to record the minutes.
- From firsthand experience, students will be familiar with the distinct challenges and opportunities of telling stories with the written word, sound, and image. They will know what it's like to work with a professional editor, planning, reporting, drafting, and revising for publication and broadcast in more than one medium.
- Finally, students will know how to attend to matters of craft, audience, and context. They will emerge from the program stronger thinkers and writers, able to adapt to a variety of narrative situations in their personal, public, and professional lives.