

# Intro to Magazine Writing

**This is a sample syllabus. Actual course topics and assignments may vary by instructor and class.**

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## **Week 1**

What makes a good story idea and where to find it. Finding stories that are newsworthy and have an entertainment value.

Assignment: Come up with two story ideas (maximum of 150 words each).

## **Week 2**

Reporting, interviewing, and note-taking. How to conduct an interview. Basic journalism terms defined.

Assignment: Report both articles simultaneously.

## **Week 3**

Pitch letters, magazine articles types, and word counts. Pitch letter basics. The essential elements of a successful pitch letter. Examples of pitch letters. Types of magazine articles.

Assignment: Write pitch letter 1.

## **Week 4**

The world of magazines. The anatomy of a magazine. Understanding magazine readers.

Assignment: Write pitch letter 2.

## **Week 5**

The masthead and how to read it. Contacting editors. Sending out your pitch letter.

Assignment: Continue reporting both articles.

## **Week 6**

Writing and re-writing. How to identify and fix the problems in your article. The do's and don'ts of writing and rewriting.

Assignment: Write article 1.

## **Week 7**

Contracts, per-word rates, and expenses. Following up on your pitch. Getting an assignment.

Assignment: Write article 2.

## **Week 8**

Turning in work, fact-checking, and getting paid. Revising your work with an editor. Turning in background material. Terms you need to know.