The Course

Writing for Reporters (JOUR-UA 202.003) is designed for students seeking the tools to better convey the import of their research and reporting. These two tasks are the pillars of great journalism. But having accomplished the reporting—and the research—one arrives at the final critical step: the writing. Over the course of this semester students will focus on this final step by studying the works of those who’ve mastered it and by practicing that step in their own writing. Students will read two to three articles a week, and write three essays of their own. Each of these essays will be workshopped in class, revised, and then turned in for a grade.
The Grade

First essay: 33 percent
Second essay: 33 percent
Third essay: 33 percent
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The Rules

1.) Turn everything in on time. This class runs on the workshopping. When you are late you inconvenience everyone else. Be considerate.

2.) Do the reading. We analyze the reading together. When you haven’t done the reading, you force others in the group to carry the brunt of the conversation. Don’t be a bad citizen. Do the reading.

3.) Plagiarism. Nah.
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The Agenda

January 22
Nicholas Kristof, “How Romney Would Treat Women”  
Hendrik Hertzberg, “Off and Running”  
Carolyn Forché, “The Colonel”  
Cornelius Eady, “The Gathering of My Name”  
Susan Mitchell, “From the Journals of the Frog Prince”

January 29
Cristina Nehring, “Our essays, ourselves”  
Ian Frazier, “An Angler at Heart,”  
Amiri Baraka, “Preface to a Twenty Volume Suicide Note”

February 5
Bill Wyman, “The Pale King”  
Kathryn Schulz, “The Really Big One”  
Larry Neal, “The Summer After Malcolm”

February 12
Tom Bissell, “A comet’s tale”  
Elizabeth Kolbert, “The Sixth Extinction?”
First essay draft due

February 19
Group #1 workshop

February 26
March 5
Michael Kinsley, “Mine Is Longer Than Yours”
Group #2 first essay revision due

March 19
Frank O’Hara, “The Day Lady Day Died”
Caitlin Flanagan, “The Lessons Of Katie Couric”
Alva Johnston, “The Education of a Prince”
Second essay draft due

March 26
Group #2 workshop

April 2
Group #1 workshop
Group #2 second essay revision due

April 9
Ian Parker, “The Bright Side”
Rebecca Mead, “Food Glorious Food,”
Group #1 second essay revision due

April 16
George Orwell, “Politics And The English Language”
James Fallows “Why Americans Hate The Media”
Third essay due
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April 23
Group #1 workshop

April 30
Group #2 workshop
Group #1 third essay revision due
Nicole Cliffe, “Getting the Body You’ve Always Wanted”
Mallory Ortberg “A Day In The Life Of A Troubled Male Anti-Hero”

May 7
Group #2 third essay revision due