

1-2004

JOUR 340.01: Feature Writing

Sheri Venema

University of Montana - Missoula

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Feature Writing

JOURNALISM 340
Spring Semester 2004
J-211
3 credits

INSTRUCTOR

Sheri Venema
Office: J-302
phones: 243-2577 (O), 327-0207 (H)
e-mail: svenema@selway.umt.ed

TEXTBOOK

Friedlander & Lee: "Feature Writing for Newspapers and Magazines" 5th edition

OFFICE HOURS

Monday: 3-4 p.m.
Tuesday: 10 a.m.-noon
Wednesday: 3-4 p.m.

EXPECTATIONS

- Be curious.
- Be willing to explore and to take risks.
- Attend all classes. Participate. Speak up.
- Meet all deadlines (**Assignments that miss deadline get an F**).
- Spell correctly, use proper grammar and AP style.
- Use proper copy format

DETAILS

Choose seven types of stories from the following list and turn one in every two weeks. Make sure a trend story is on your list; other choices are up to you.

- News features*: Second-day spins, people & places behind the news
- Business Feature*: The unusual and timely business idea.
- Commemorative stories*: Anniversaries, the final day.
- Explainer*: How something works
- Historical feature*: everything old is new
- Hobby stories*: Unusual hobbies/collections
- How-to story*: Time-tested recipe for readership
- Numbers as news*: The quirky number story (4-4-04) or the best/worst 10.
- Odd jobs*: Who does them and why?
- Color stories*: What's going on behind/around/during the main event
- Personality profiles*: Getting to the heart and soul of your subject
- Brites*: quirky and quick
- Trends*: How to personalize what the whole world is doing.

PLUS: A (sort-of) book report. More to come.

-more-

TECHNIQUES WE'LL USE:

- ❑ Setting tone, creating mood
- ❑ Narrative storytelling
- ❑ Finding the telling detail
- ❑ People in action
- ❑ Use of dialogue
- ❑ Character sketches
- ❑ Lively verbs
- ❑ Lists
- ❑ Metaphors and similes
- ❑ Show; don't tell
- ❑ Precision, clarity, pacing
- ❑ Magic 3
- ❑ Repetition
- ❑ And more...

GRADING

Exercises & Assignments:	30 %
Writing assignments	50%
Book report:	10 %
Attendance & participation	10%

PLAGIARISM:

Have enough pride in your work that you wouldn't even think about turning in something written by someone else. Penalties range from flunking this class to expulsion from school.