

Week 1: Orientation

Journalistic Writing

This is a happy alternative to most conventional writing courses. The aim is to broaden and deepen your understanding of writing in English by examining and practicing a broad range of journalistic styles and assignments. In class, we will analyse some classic pieces of journalism and the situations they describe. And then we'll try to do better. You **MUST** download the weekly material from the course homepage before the class (URL below).

This course should help students develop the skills required for writing journalism in English, and broaden and intensify their understanding of writing features, reviews, reportage, advertising. Ideally, you should come away from this class with a greater awareness of the power of the written word in the dissemination of news, and a sense that this is something you could do for a living.

Papers: 40% Four assignments, minimum 500 words, maximum 1,000 words (including a possibly wordless advertisement) and a short presentation on an aspect of one of your assignments or on anything relevant and interesting (please discuss with the teacher).

Class Participation: 30% You'll need to be responsive and ready to apply yourself in the classroom.

Others: 30% Please attend the class regularly and submit your assignments on time.

[Week 1] Orientation

[Week 2] Reportage

[Week 3] The leader column

[Week 4] Foreign correspondence

[Week 5] Saying it like THE SUN

[Week 6] The advertisement

[Week 7] Beating the drum: war correspondence

[Week 8] The review

[Week 9] The interview

[Week10] Reading week

[Week11] The obituary: **FINAL DEADLINE: ALL ASSIGNMENTS**

[Week12] The silly season

[Week13] Student Presentations

[Week14] Student Presentations

[Week15] Course review

ASSIGNMENTS Here are sixteen possible assignments related to our weekly topics. All students will write 1 interview/obituary + 3 other assignments = total 4. Minimum 500 words, maximum 1,000 words.

1. **REPORTAGE** Write an article about SILS: what it means to students, what

the teachers and students are like, and the purpose of the School.

2. **REPORTAGE** Write a piece of reportage on a subject of your choice.
3. **A LEADING ARTICLE** Write a leader on a current crisis.
4. **A LEADING ARTICLE** Write a leader on a subject of your choice.
5. **TABLOID STYLE** Write a front page article on a recent event at Waseda in the style of *The Sun* or another tabloid newspaper.
6. **TABLOID STYLE** Write a front page article in the style of *The Sun* on a celebrity scandal (you can invent the scandal).
7. **ADVERTISEMENT** Write a press ad for Waseda University.
8. **ADVERTISEMENT** Write a press advertisement for any product.
9. **BOOK REVIEW** Review a book of your choice.
10. **BOOK REVIEW** Review about a recently released film of your choice.
11. **INTERVIEW** Interview a non-native speaker of Japanese about their life in Japan.
12. **INTERVIEW** Interview any native speaker of English about anything.
13. **OBITUARY** Research and write an obituary of a well-known person (who is currently alive). Or, with their OK, write the obituary of someone in this class.
14. **OBITUARY** Research, imagine and write your own obituary. How wonderful were you, really?
15. **WAR REPORT** You are a journalist working somewhere in Iraq. Research and write a report in the style of Michael Herr.
16. **WAR REPORT** Research and write a report from any war in history.

Guidelines

1. **DEADLINES: Assignments must be handed in one week after we cover the topic in the classroom. For example, we will discuss The Leader Column in Week**
2. **LENGTH: Assignments must be AT LEAST 500 words long. Advertisement assignments can have any number of words, or none at all (in which case they have to be brilliant).**
3. **FORMAT: Essays should be written in English on a PC.**
4. **PRESENTATION: Check your spelling and punctuation carefully. Use charts and photographs wherever appropriate.**
5. **IMPORTANT: Design your assignment to look like journalism. Use headlines, subheads, captions and typographic styles. Spread your copy over many paragraphs.**
6. **Make your writing readable. Grab attention with your headline.**



fagsnmags.com => **WRITING JOURNALISM**