

## Writing for the modern media: how to write news and feature articles

---

**Start date** 17 April 2021                      **End date** 18 April 2021

**Venue** Virtual Classroom  
*(taught via live and interactive Zoom sessions in British Summer Time)*

**Tutor** Tony Padman                      **Course code** 2021NDR232

**Director of Academic Centres** Dr Corinne Boz

**For further information on this course, please contact** Head of Academic Centre Administration, Sarah Blakeney  
[sarah.blakeney@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.blakeney@ice.cam.ac.uk)

**To book** See: [www.ice.cam.ac.uk](http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk) or telephone 01223 746262

---

### Tutor biography

Tony Padman studied journalism at the University of London and then undertook a series of short courses in advanced news and feature writing, media law and interviewing skills. He began his journalism career in 2000 writing for The London Evening Standard and then spent five years as a reporter and feature writer on his local newspaper, The Ham&High covering the boroughs of Camden and Westminster in London. He now writes news and features for a broad range of national newspapers and magazines. He qualified as a teacher in 2008 and then returned to the University of London – this time as a sessional journalism lecturer to first year students.

## Course programme

---

### **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

**10.00am – 11.15am BST\***: News values, the newspaper and what makes news?

**11.45am – 1.00pm BST\***: How to write news, news in brief (NIBs) and story structure

### **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

**10.00am – 11.15am BST\***: How to edit to length, using quotes and interviewing skills

**11.45am – 1.00pm BST\***: How news differs from features and vox pops

**\* *British Summer Time***

## **Course syllabus**

### **Aims:**

- To develop a new set of writing skills
- To understand how to write news
- How news differs from features
- How to conduct a vox pop

### **Content:**

Have you read news, features and vox pop articles in newspapers and magazines - and wished that you could write like that - and get paid to do it? This course will help you discover the basic skills needed to write news and the different writing style used for features from a professional Fleet Street journalist. We will explore how a story progresses from the idea to interviewing, writing and editing. With over 26,000 magazines and 1,000 newspapers published in Britain every year, there's never been a better time to begin writing news and features – from local to regional and national publications. We will look at what makes a good news, feature and vox pop story – and what doesn't; how hard and soft news differ and editing to length. By the end of the course you will be more familiar with different publications; be able to use new skills to enable you to write articles and have more confidence in your writing.

### **Presentation of the course:**

This is a highly practical course with plenty of classroom discussions. You will see how stories progress from idea to publication and you will receive regular feedback on your writing. In addition, there will be short film clips showing how newspapers are produced today, plus an opportunity to see the tutor's work and ask questions.

**As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:**

- Write a news report with an awareness of quotes and questions
- Develop a style of writing appropriate to news
- Edit a story to length with a keen eye for detail
- Understand how news and feature writing styles differ

---

## Reading and resources list

---

Listed below are texts that might be of interest should you wish to supplement your learning on the course. Any essential reading is marked with an asterisk \*

<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Publisher and date</b>
Davies, Nick	<i>Flat Earth News</i>	Chatto 2008
Marr, Andrew	<i>My Trade</i>	MacMillan 2004
Simpson, John	<i>We Chose to Speak of War and Strife</i>	Bloomsbury 2016
Thompson, Jeremy	<i>Breaking News: An Autobiography</i>	Biteback 2017
Watson, SJ	<i>Writers and Artists Year Book</i>	Bloomsbury 2021

---

## Additional information

---

### What you will need

The course is open to anyone; however, it is taught via a virtual classroom. You will be able to see, hear and interact with your classmates and the tutor. In order to participate you will need to have a laptop, computer, tablet or other device equipped with a camera (webcam), speakers and a microphone.

Full instructions and support on the use of the software will be given on request.

### Venue

This course takes place online using the teleconferencing software ZOOM.

If you have any queries about the software or accessing the course, please contact us by e-mailing [creativewriting@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:creativewriting@ice.cam.ac.uk).

**Note** Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

*Information correct as of:* 11 March 2021