



COMM11007 Media Writing

Term 2 - 2021

Profile information current as at 04/08/2025 03:52 am

All details in this unit profile for COMM11007 have been officially approved by CQUniversity and represent a learning partnership between the University and you (our student). The information will not be changed unless absolutely necessary and any change will be clearly indicated by an approved correction included in the profile.

General Information

Overview

This introductory unit will develop student writing skills and apply those skills to the formats expected in the media industry. Students will learn how to differentiate media genres through audience and channel, and select appropriate techniques to produce professional documents suitable for publication or broadcast in traditional and online media. This unit introduces media writing skills, which contribute to the skills required in professional communication practice.

Details

Career Level: *Undergraduate*

Unit Level: *Level 1*

Credit Points: 6

Student Contribution Band: 10

Fraction of Full-Time Student Load: 0.125

Pre-requisites or Co-requisites

There are no requisites for this unit.

Important note: Students enrolled in a subsequent unit who failed their pre-requisite unit, should drop the subsequent unit before the census date or within 10 working days of Fail grade notification. Students who do not drop the unit in this timeframe cannot later drop the unit without academic and financial liability. See details in the [Assessment Policy and Procedure \(Higher Education Coursework\)](#).

Offerings For Term 2 - 2021

- Cairns
- Online
- Rockhampton
- Townsville

Attendance Requirements

All on-campus students are expected to attend scheduled classes – in some units, these classes are identified as a mandatory (pass/fail) component and attendance is compulsory. International students, on a student visa, must maintain a full time study load and meet both attendance and academic progress requirements in each study period (satisfactory attendance for International students is defined as maintaining at least an 80% attendance record).

Website

[This unit has a website, within the Moodle system, which is available two weeks before the start of term. It is important that you visit your Moodle site throughout the term. Please visit Moodle for more information.](#)

Class and Assessment Overview

Recommended Student Time Commitment

Each 6-credit Undergraduate unit at CQUniversity requires an overall time commitment of an average of 12.5 hours of study per week, making a total of 150 hours for the unit.

Class Timetable

[Regional Campuses](#)

Bundaberg, Cairns, Emerald, Gladstone, Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville

[Metropolitan Campuses](#)

Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney

Assessment Overview

1. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 15%

2. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 50%

3. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 35%

Assessment Grading

This is a graded unit: your overall grade will be calculated from the marks or grades for each assessment task, based on the relative weightings shown in the table above. You must obtain an overall mark for the unit of at least 50%, or an overall grade of 'pass' in order to pass the unit. If any 'pass/fail' tasks are shown in the table above they must also be completed successfully ('pass' grade). You must also meet any minimum mark requirements specified for a particular assessment task, as detailed in the 'assessment task' section (note that in some instances, the minimum mark for a task may be greater than 50%). Consult the [University's Grades and Results Policy](#) for more details of interim results and final grades.

CQUniversity Policies

All University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

You may wish to view these policies:

- Grades and Results Policy
- Assessment Policy and Procedure (Higher Education Coursework)
- Review of Grade Procedure
- Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – Domestic Students
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – International Students
- Student Refund and Credit Balance Policy and Procedure
- Student Feedback – Compliments and Complaints Policy and Procedure
- Information and Communications Technology Acceptable Use Policy and Procedure

This list is not an exhaustive list of all University policies. The full list of University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

Previous Student Feedback

Feedback, Recommendations and Responses

Every unit is reviewed for enhancement each year. At the most recent review, the following staff and student feedback items were identified and recommendations were made.

Feedback from 2020 Student evaluation survey

Feedback

Students commented favourably on the practical nature of the assessment pieces including coverage of a real-world event.

Recommendation

It is recommended to maintain the practical nature of the assessment pieces including coverage of a real-world event.

Feedback from 2020 Student evaluation survey

Feedback

Students enjoyed the Unit Coordinators detailed feedback and speed with which he returned assessment pieces across a large cohort.

Recommendation

It is recommended to maintain detailed feedback and speed with which assessment pieces are returned across such a large cohort.

Feedback from 2020 Student evaluation survey

Feedback

Students suggested Zoom sessions be scheduled at the start of term with regular times/days.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Zoom sessions be scheduled at the start of term with regular times/days as part of the CQU Renew blueprint and change to the Moodle tile format.

Unit Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Identify and define industry-standard writing techniques
2. Synthesise information and articulate it succinctly and accurately in formats appropriate to media writing
3. Write effectively across a range of media writing genres
4. Reflect on contemporary media practice and industry standards
5. Analyse professional works of media writing against own work.

Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes



Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes				
	1	2	3	4	5
1 - Written Assessment - 15%	•				
2 - Written Assessment - 50%		•	•		

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes				
	1	2	3	4	5
3 - Written Assessment - 35%				•	•

Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Learning Outcomes

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes				
	1	2	3	4	5
1 - Communication	•	•	•	•	•
2 - Problem Solving					
3 - Critical Thinking	•	•	•	•	•
4 - Information Literacy	•	•	•	•	•
5 - Team Work					
6 - Information Technology Competence		•	•		•
7 - Cross Cultural Competence		•			
8 - Ethical practice		•			
9 - Social Innovation					
10 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures					

Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Graduate Attributes

Assessment Tasks	Graduate Attributes									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1 - Written Assessment - 15%	•		•	•			•			
2 - Written Assessment - 50%	•		•	•		•		•		
3 - Written Assessment - 35%	•		•	•		•		•		

Textbooks and Resources

Textbooks

There are no required textbooks.

Additional Textbook Information

All readings will be available via the unit e-reading list.

IT Resources

You will need access to the following IT resources:

- CQUniversity Student Email
- Internet
- Unit Website (Moodle)

Referencing Style

All submissions for this unit must use the referencing style: [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

Teaching Contacts

Lincoln Bertoli Unit Coordinator
l.bertoli@cqu.edu.au

Schedule

Week 1 - 12 Jul 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Introduction to Media Writing This week we introduce you to the course and introductory principles of media writing including research, planning and communication. You will also discuss the importance of evaluating your writing and the KISS Principle.	See e-reading list on Moodle.	

Week 2 - 19 Jul 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Identifying News Lesson Two expands on the idea of 'news' and 'newsworthiness' as a media writing principle. You will discuss the dominant news values, 5Ws and H and how to incorporate these principles into a strong lead paragraph when crafting a news story.	See e-reading list on Moodle.	

Week 3 - 26 Jul 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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The Basic News Story
News writing is a form of writing like no other. In this week's lesson, you will explore the practicalities of crafting a basic news story including the ABC principle, essential information and introducing talent.

See e-reading list on Moodle.

Week 4 - 02 Aug 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Voice, Attribution and Acknowledgement		
Media writing differs to academic writing in a number of ways including attributing information. In week four we expand further on using credible sources through successful interviewing techniques, introducing talent and incorporating voice into your writing.	See e-reading list on Moodle.	Notify the unit coordinator of your event by the end of Week 4.

Week 5 - 09 Aug 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Writing for Social Media Lesson Five focusses on effectively engaging with different social media platforms and the difference between writing for social and traditional media.	See e-reading list on Moodle.	Assessment 1 - Modern Media Analysis Due: Week 5 Friday (13 Aug 2021) 17:00pm AEST MODERN MEDIA ANALYSIS Due: Week 5 Friday (13 Aug 2021) 5:00 pm AEST

Vacation Week - 16 Aug 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Vacation Week	N/A	

Week 6 - 23 Aug 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
The Art of Curation This lesson introduces you to the difference between creating content and collaborating or collecting content in the modern media landscape.	See e-reading list on Moodle.	

Week 7 - 30 Aug 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Writing for Speech and Vision During the first half of this unit, you have worked on the basics of newswriting and social media. From here we move into more specific sub-genres of media writing including 'writing for the eye' and 'writing for the ear'.	See e-reading list on Moodle.	

Week 8 - 06 Sep 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Media Releases

Lesson Eight explores how media writing and journalism skills can be transferred to the public relations sphere including crafting a media release, supplementary information and fact sheets.

See e-reading list on Moodle.

Week 9 - 13 Sep 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Newsletters and Brochures While media has become more fragmented, the popularity of auxiliary news items - newsletters and brochures - has remained constant. This week you will explore the principles of producing influential auxiliary news items and the benefits of 'one stop shop' media content.	See e-reading list on Moodle.	

Week 10 - 20 Sep 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Supplementing the Story This week's short lesson introduces you to supplementary materials to consider when writing your story, specifically writing headlines, captions and breakout information.	See e-reading list on Moodle.	Assessment 2 - Modern News Reporting Due: Week 10 Monday (20 Sep 2021) 9:00 am AEST MODERN NEWS REPORTING Due: Week 10 Monday (20 Sep 2021) 9:00 am AEST

Week 11 - 27 Sep 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Reviewing Your Work The old saying that 'good writing is due to effective editing' certainly rings true in journalism and media writing. Week 11 focusses on the different stages of reviewing your work.	See e-reading list on Moodle.	

Week 12 - 04 Oct 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Review Week This week we review the key concepts from the term.		

Review/Exam Week - 11 Oct 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
		Assessment 3 - Reflection Due: Review/Exam Week Monday (11 Oct 2021) 9:00 am AEST REFLECTION Due: Review/Exam Week Monday (11 Oct 2021) 9:00 am AEST

Exam Week - 18 Oct 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Assessment Tasks

1 MODERN MEDIA ANALYSIS

Assessment Type

Written Assessment

Task Description

Select and analyse a long-form convergent media article from a credible, online media source. (If stuck, use the ABC as there is no paywall)

The media article must be at least 500 to 1,000 words long. Attach screen shots of the article as an appendix.

Present your assessment as a 1,500 word written response under the following sub-headings:

- Journalistic principles
- Convergence
- Design and layout

Journalistic principles include:

- The 5Ws and H
- News values (including whether the article is hard news or soft news)
- Angle
- Sources

Convergence includes:

- Audio/video/image content
- The inclusion of social media and how it is relevant
- Links to other relevant information (excluding advertising) including websites, previous stories, background information

Design and layout includes:

- Placement of article within the news site
- Accessibility and navigability of multimedia elements
- Audience engagement (attention-grabbing headline, visual appeal, shareability)

Your response must identify and analyse the above elements with clear links to the unit content and academic referencing.

Assessment Due Date

Week 5 Friday (13 Aug 2021) 5:00 pm AEST

Online

Return Date to Students

Week 6 Friday (27 Aug 2021)

Assessments will be returned within two weeks of submission.

Weighting

15%

Assessment Criteria

Marking criteria will include:

- Quality of article selection;
- Appropriate identification of journalistic principles, convergence and design / layout;
- Link to unit content;
- Quality of academic writing;
- Quality of referencing.

A marking rubric is available on the Moodle site

Referencing Style

- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

Submission

Online

Submission Instructions

Submit as a word or PDF document through Moodle.

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Identify and define industry-standard writing techniques

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Cross Cultural Competence

2 MODERN NEWS REPORTING

Assessment Type

Written Assessment

Task Description

You will write and create content for a modern news media site using Adobe Spark.

This assessment comprises three phases.

Phase One: Attendance at an event

You will attend an event in your local area. This can be any event but it must occur prior to the end of Week Eight. **(You will notify the unit coordinator of your proposed event by the end of Week Four.)**

Events may include music festivals, sporting matches, community open days and political announcements. Set up an Instagram account (as required in your weekly forum activities).

NOTE: You will NOT be permitted to use your existing Instagram account as staff will need quick access to unit specific posts without having to scroll through existing posts when marking the assessment.

Attend and record activities of the event via Instagram. Create a hashtag for your event (if one doesn't already exist). Throughout the event, post interesting facts, quotes, photos and videos via your Instagram account. You must record a minimum of 15 posts. Also include #CQUjournalism in your posts. You will also take at least five newsworthy photos and shoot a 30-60 second video which will be used in Phase Two of this assessment. The photos and video can be shot and edited on your phone. The video can be a short wrap of the event, interviews with relevant talent/organisers/attendees, or a combination. The photos need to incorporate different aspects of the event. You are encouraged to be as creative as possible.

Phase Two: Writing a news article

Write a 400-word news story about your event. This must be written using the inverted pyramid, and have a strong lead paragraph/s that are based on the 5Ws and H. You will need to include some quotes from attendees or organisers. You may use sources and quotes from your Instagram posts. (Ensure your sources are credible - two sources minimum). You will include at least FIVE newsworthy photographs featuring different aspects of the event (with appropriate captions including names where relevant) to accompany your story. Create an Adobe Spark page. Design the page in the style of an online news site and upload the article, images and the video.

(NOTE: You may need to use a video sharing platform like YouTube to embed the video content).

Phase Three: Submission

You are welcome to share the link to your Spark page on the QandA Forum and provide constructive feedback on other students' pages. It has been our experience that those who are willing to share and receive feedback generally receive a higher grade.

Submit a PDF version of your story, images (including captions) and Instagram posts (screen shots) through Portfolium. Include a cover page with your details and links to your Spark page, Instagram account and video sharing platform if necessary.

(Ensure all pages are live so teaching staff can access them). Before you submit, check that your article:

- Is newsworthy
- Has a strong introductory lead based on the 5W's and H
- Concludes appropriately; and,
- Uses correct grammar, spelling and punctuation.

Assessment Due Date

Week 10 Monday (20 Sept 2021) 9:00 am AEST

Online

Return Date to Students

Week 12 Monday (4 Oct 2021)

Assessments will be returned within two weeks of submission.

Weighting

50%

Assessment Criteria

Marking criteria will include:

- Newsworthiness of article
- Overall effectiveness of storytelling as appropriate to the genre (news)
- Newsworthiness of images and video
- Design and layout of Spark page
- Attention to requirements of the task

A marking rubric is available on Moodle.

Referencing Style

- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

Submission

Online

Submission Instructions

Submit as a PDF document through Portfolium

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Synthesise information and articulate it succinctly and accurately in formats appropriate to media writing
- Write effectively across a range of media writing genres

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Information Technology Competence
- Ethical practice

3 REFLECTION

Assessment Type

Written Assessment

Task Description

Write a 2,500 - 3,000 word reflection and justification of the modern news gathering process, undertaken as part of Assessment Two. You will justify how you addressed journalistic principles, convergence and design / layout when crafting your Spark page and writing your news article. Your reflection will explain where improvements could have been made with reference to the unit content. You may include references to other credible news sites to justify your arguments. Discuss the quality and effectiveness of your images and video content, and where - if at all - you feel enhancements could be made. You may choose to demonstrate how you would approach the same story with a different angle, and include an alternative lead paragraph/s. This assessment is designed to develop your ability to self-reflect and constantly improve your craft, which is essential for even the most experienced media professionals. This assessment must include academic referencing.

Assessment Due Date

Review/Exam Week Monday (11 Oct 2021) 9:00 am AEST

Online

Return Date to Students

Exam Week Friday (22 Oct 2021)

Assessments are returned within two weeks of submission.

Weighting

35%

Assessment Criteria

Marking criteria will include:

- Quality of self-assessment
- Standard of writing
- Adherence to requirements of the task
- Link to unit content
- Referencing

A marking criteria sheet is available below.

Referencing Style

- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

Submission

Online

Submission Instructions

Submit as a word or PDF document through Moodle

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Reflect on contemporary media practice and industry standards
- Analyse professional works of media writing against own work.

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Information Technology Competence
- Ethical practice

Academic Integrity Statement

As a CQUniversity student you are expected to act honestly in all aspects of your academic work.

Any assessable work undertaken or submitted for review or assessment must be your own work. Assessable work is any type of work you do to meet the assessment requirements in the unit, including draft work submitted for review and feedback and final work to be assessed.

When you use the ideas, words or data of others in your assessment, you must thoroughly and clearly acknowledge the source of this information by using the correct referencing style for your unit. Using others' work without proper acknowledgement may be considered a form of intellectual dishonesty.

Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in your university study ensures the CQUniversity qualification you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

As a student, you are responsible for reading and following CQUniversity's policies, including the [Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure](#). This policy sets out CQUniversity's expectations of you to act with integrity, examples of academic integrity breaches to avoid, the processes used to address alleged breaches of academic integrity, and potential penalties.

What is a breach of academic integrity?

A breach of academic integrity includes but is not limited to plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion, cheating, contract cheating, and academic misconduct. The Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure defines what these terms mean and gives examples.

Why is academic integrity important?

A breach of academic integrity may result in one or more penalties, including suspension or even expulsion from the University. It can also have negative implications for student visas and future enrolment at CQUniversity or elsewhere. Students who engage in contract cheating also risk being blackmailed by contract cheating services.

Where can I get assistance?

For academic advice and guidance, the [Academic Learning Centre \(ALC\)](#) can support you in becoming confident in completing assessments with integrity and of high standard.

What can you do to act with integrity?



Be Honest

If your assessment task is done by someone else, it would be dishonest of you to claim it as your own



Seek Help

If you are not sure about how to cite or reference in essays, reports etc, then seek help from your lecturer, the library or the Academic Learning Centre (ALC)



Produce Original Work

Originality comes from your ability to read widely, think critically, and apply your gained knowledge to address a question or problem