

JRN275 FALL 2018

FINAL ASSIGNMENT: Story pitch, interview & FOIA request letter

Instructions/Explanations

DUE DATE: 8 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 11 via [Google Drive](#). Please save your work into ONE, SINGLE document and send.

For this final assignment, imagine you are an investigative reporter for a newspaper, magazine or TV station and I am your editor-in-chief or news director.

Find and research a topic and/or issue in either Hamden, the local region, Connecticut, or your hometown and provide the following:

1.) STORY PITCH -- Use the story pitch format on pp. 44-45 in Gaines. This pitch is required to be at least three pages and must include key details of the story:

- The most important details – Who? What? When? Where? Why? How? (include in the SCOPE and/or NEED sections),
- Identify and describe **HUMAN** and **DOCUMENTED** sources you would use for the story,
 - WHO DO YOU NEED TO INTERVIEW? WHY?
 - WHAT DO YOU EXPECT TO GET FROM THEM?
 - WHAT PUBLIC DOCUMENTS DO YOU NEED TO MAKE THIS STORY A REALITY?
 - WHAT DO YOU EXPECT TO FIND IN THEM? WHERE WILL YOU GET THEM? (Include in the SOURCES section)
- *Direct quotes* you take from the transcription of the interview with your key source to use in a published story (include in the SOURCES section, as well),
- Proper grammar, spelling, punctuation and *AP style*,
- Your account will not include bullet points, but you will write in full sentences for the pitch.

For PRESENTATION, I just want a single story. (No three-part series.) But, I do want to know if this is a news story for the *Chronicle*, a broadcast piece for Q30, something for a local TV news station or news magazine, a web piece for either and what art/graphics/visuals you may need for it, as well.

If you need to Google or report other information to bolster your story pitch, be sure to note from where you pulled information.

2.) FOIA REQUEST LETTER – Identify from where/whom you will get public documents and write an official FOIA request letter to that department/individual. (See examples in Cullier & Davis and remember the tips we talked about in class.)

As this is a final assignment, no late assignments will be accepted.