

Sports Writing for the Community Newspaper

A new Texas Press Association Online Academy course designed for multi-beat staff writers who also cover sports

Jan 25-March 9



Registration FREE to TPA members selected to attend. Class size limited.



Course Instructor:

Griff Singer, who retired after the fall semester 2002 from the University of Texas at Austin, continues to

work with the School of Journalism as a consultant and as director of the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund Center for Editing Excellence. He holds a bachelor of journalism and an M.A. from the University of Texas at Austin.

Singer formerly served as associate chair of the School of Journalism, as head of the newspaper sequence and as the undergraduate adviser for the School of Journalism. He is the first director of UT's Sports Reporting Program, believed to be the first of its kind in the nation.

Course Objectives & Goals:

Sports are high-interest topics in most communities and in effect act as glue that helps hold communities together.

The goal of the course is to help reporters who may have limited experience in sports journalism make their newspaper's sports pages more objective, more accurate and, of course, more interesting.

Course Topics:

- managing and planning coverage
- interviewing,
- columns and alternate ways to present sports information, especially for non-daily newspapers.

The course will stress that sports writing is really no different from writing for city hall or the school board. It must be clear, accurate and pertinent to the newspaper's distinctive audience.

CLASS NOTES: This is an online course available 24/7 during the month-long course period. Students work at their own pace and schedule, but will need to be able to devote four or five hours weekly to complete the assignments for each topic.

No textbook is required, but students will need to have access to an Associated Press Stylebook and dictionary, as well as Internet access (Internet Explorer or Firefox browsers recommended), email and a word processor with a spelling and grammar checker.

REGISTRATION: Student must complete every line to be eligible. Please fax to TPA 512-477-6759.

Student Name _____ Newspaper _____

Address _____ City, State, ZIP _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Student's e-mail _____

AUTHORIZATION: I understand that the student above must complete the entire course or my newspaper will be assessed a \$100 fee.