

My portfolio is a culmination of the stories I created my last semester in college. It demonstrates the skills that I have learned at UW-Eau Claire including the ability to put together well-organized, well triangulated print, audio, video and photo slideshow stories. I have learned to write leads that reflect the theme of each individual story and follow that with a satisfying conclusion.

This portfolio shows my hunger and passion for journalism and demonstrates that I can cover a wide variety of topics. My future in journalism is off to an excellent start thanks to the education I received in college, and throughout my career I will hone my research, critical thinking, and communication skills in order to produce the highest quality journalism.

Express leave mark on Eau Claire baseball scene - [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PK\\_uMo1m\\_Sk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PK_uMo1m_Sk)

This sample was chosen because it demonstrates my ability to put together a video package. In this story I conduct a voice over as well as a stand-up at the beginning and ending. My process for forming this story was to do research on the Eau Claire Express and then follow that up by conducting interviews with those involved in the organization as well as fans of the organization. After conducting the bulk on my research and interviews I wrote a script and conducted the stand-up portions and recorded the voice over. Once that was done I edited my content in iMovie and pieced the package together. This product meets department goals because it is triangulated and shows my ability to think analytically and critically. It also demonstrates my visual communication skills. One strength of this piece is that the story is interesting to watch and it clearly states the origins of the Eau Claire Express baseball team. The story also has clear and consistent audio attached to the video. One weakness is the B-roll. I would have liked more of a variety and a higher quality of B-roll.

Two-year degrees a viable option - <http://www.insideec.com/?p=19594>

I chose this sample because it demonstrates my ability to put together an audio story. It is a thought-provoking piece showing the contrast between two and four year degrees. I conducted research on both degrees and then interviewed individuals on both sides of the fence. After doing this, I wrote out a script and recorded my audio using the Audacity program. I also edited my material in this program. This story demonstrates the department goals of research and information gathering. I did a lot of research on each respective degree prior to conducting a single interview. I wanted to be knowledgeable on my topic prior to getting information from experts. One strength of this piece is that it is well triangulated and shows the opinions of both sides. It even drew a little controversy, because the two-year degree side felt it was being short-changed by the four-year university. A weakness of this piece is that the audio levels are a little inconsistent

from beginning to end. Certain interviews seem to be at a different volume, and the first few seconds of my voice over has a different pitch than the rest of the piece. Also the layout on Inside Eau Claire is incorrect. I am working with my editors to try and fix the issue.

Online courses: the wave of the future - <http://www.insideec.com/?p=17966>

I chose this piece because it demonstrates my ability to put together a well-written print story. It also reflects my ability to see changes in society, particularly in education, in predicting that there will be more online courses in the future. After taking a few online courses myself, I saw that they were becoming more prevalent in today's education. I began to research this and found that this was the case. After conducting a fair amount of research I reached out to the president of the local technical college and he confirmed that, at least at his college, online degrees were becoming more popular. After having all of my information I wrote a thought-provoking piece on the future of education. This story demonstrates my ability to think analytically and critically. I had a hunch that online courses were becoming more popular and I acted on it. A strength of this piece is its ability to leave the reader wondering about online courses. Several individuals that have read this article have told me that this led them to doing their own research on the matter and even convinced one that regardless of her busy schedule, she would be able to make online classes work for her. I also thought the graphic was a nice addition to the story. One weakness is the lack of photographs. I inserted two, but would have liked to have had more and done a photo slideshow.

Boomerang generation makes its way home - <http://www.insideec.com/?p=15987>

I chose this article because it shows my ability to see trends that are going on not only in my community but also around the country. It also demonstrates my ability to tie a print story and a slideshow together seamlessly. I had moved back in with my parents for a few months about a year ago and I was seeing individuals my same age doing the similar things. It dawned on me that this would be a wonderful idea for a story. I began to research the topic and was able to find an individual that was willing to talk openly about moving back home. I also reached out to an Economics expert who was able to link our sluggish economy with individuals saving money. Once I had all my information as well as several photographs of those I interviewed, I wrote the article and produced the slideshow. This story demonstrates my awareness of social issues facing America. Through personal experiences I was able to produce a story that was tailored to people of all ages who may or may not be having financial trouble. This article also shows my ability to communicate effectively through visual communication. The greatest strength in this story is the slideshow. It ties in with the print story but does not repeat information that was

already in the print version. The photos show what it's like living at home and what new responsibilities come with that. The slide show adds significantly to the story without taking anything away from the print version. One weakness is that I would have liked to have found more concrete evidence that the sluggish economy is affecting living situations. One more expert on the matter would have added to the story.