

The journalism program at UW-Eau Claire really opened my eyes to what journalism really is. When I was a freshman and first started taking journalism courses I honestly had the opinion that it was more about creative writing than research writing. I figured if you threw a few quotes in a story you were then free to put your own spin on it. It took me about 2 minutes in CJ 222 to realize that this was not the case. Journalism is about the facts and getting the truth out is the main objective. After this is accomplished then the writer is able to put his or her stylistic spin on it.

I originally chose journalism because I wanted to cover sports and had dream of becoming the beat writer for the Green Bay Packers. I had grand illusions that I could write about sports my entire time in college, but I'm please that my illusions turned out to be false. I wrote about a wide variety of topics including politics, education and religion. Covering all of this, and not just sports, has transformed me in to a much better writer. I am able to write different types of leads and conclusions in my stories and this is all thanks to the courses I took at UW-Eau Claire.

I feel I am prepared to enter the professional world of journalism because of the wonderful education I received while in college. I have studied courses in mass media law, ethics, public affairs reporting and photojournalism. I have the tools necessary to succeed in the real world.

The courses that are laid out in the curriculum are all necessary for students to get the education that they need. CJ 241, the audio and video course, is not required but I feel that it should be. In this course I could have learned how to use all the video equipment and would not have been so standoffish in putting together a video package.