

**TECH1502 Introduction to Community Media
Workshop 004 – Community Reporting Skills**

1 Introduction: Card Game (20 mins)

- Gather in groups with no more than four people.
- Play a couple of hands of rummy or another game.
- Discuss a matter of concern related to where you live, how you travel into university, or your ability to travel around Leicester.

2 Discussion – Finding a Story

- Based on the discussion above, find a partner that you can work with to develop a story based on your experience of living as a student in Leicester, travelling into the university, or travelling around Leicester generally.
- What do you think, based on your own experience, are the main issues of concern that people want to know about?
- Why don't these issues get picked-up in the mainstream media?
- What do you think the problems are with any of these issues?
 - Anti-social behaviour?
 - Distance to travel?
 - Accessibility?
 - Congestion?
 - Price of fares?
 - Lack of integrated services?

You can access some tips about being a community reporter here:

<https://communityreporter.net/>

<https://peoplesvoicemedia.co.uk/communityreporting-citizen-journalism-paper>

<https://www.bristolwomensvoice.org.uk/further-training-to-become-community-reporters/>

3 Activity – Investigating a Story

- Your task for this session is to go and find people who can tell you their experiences of the issues above.
- You cannot use any special equipment except things that you already have on your person, i.e. pen, note-book, phone.
- Where is the best place to find people who are willing to talk to you?
- How will you approach people?
- How will you start a conversation with someone you don't know?
- What details about the person do you need to note?
- What should you tell them about what you are writing about?
- How would they get back to you if they have an issue?

4 Activity - Interviewing People

- Once you have found people who are willing to talk with you, what questions are you going to ask?
- What's the best approach to getting people to relax and talk with you?
- Are you recording this interview or taking notes?
- How do you make people feel comfortable with your approach?
- At what point do you know you have enough material?

5 Activity - Collect Media

- As well as talking to people, can you collect other forms of media?
- How would you ask for a photograph?
- How would you ask to record video or audio?
- What's the quality of the audio or video likely to be on your phone?

- What's the environment like that you are recording in?
- How will you edit the media that you capture?

6 Activity -Make Sense of What You Gathered

- When you get back to the lab, how are you going to review the notes and the media that you have gathered?
- What's the best way to identify the relationships, the links and the themes in what people have told you?
- How much of this information can be verified?
- Is any of this information legally dubious – i.e. does it slander people or mention legal proceedings?

Check out these sites for background information into media law:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/academy/journalism/law>
<http://www.communityradiotoolkit.net/on-air/regulation/>

7 Activity - Putting It Together as a Story

- How will you assemble this information into a story that you can publish and share?
- Can you identify the 5 W's?
- Can you identify the story structure?
- What is really going on here?
- Why should people care about your story?
- What's the headline?
- Have you double-checked your spelling and grammar?

Check out the notes from workshop three about structuring your story:

<http://robwatsonmedia.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/TECH1502-18-Workshop-003-Being-a-Community-Reporter-001-2017-10-09.pdf>

8 Discussion - What do Other People Think?

- Does your story invite people to share and comment on the experience you are describing?
- Does your story connect with other stories that are common in the local area?
- How can people follow-up and discuss the issues that you have described?
- What do you get from telling and sharing this story?

9 Activity – Write and Share Your Story

- Now that you have all the elements of your story, how quickly can you write and post it?
- Where will it be shared?
- If you delay writing and posting what will happen?
- How are you going to link your story with other stories?