Preliminary Syllabus
WSP 184: Magazine and Feature Writing
Quarter: Spring 2017
Instructor: Maria Finn

Class Outline:

Pre-Assignment:
Please bring a laptop to class if possible and two magazines that you would like to write for.

Day 1: June 3
1. Engage all the senses of the readers or audience. Smell, sounds, touch, and taste, along with sight, will help you write scenes that are emotionally resonant and draw the reader into the action.
2. Set the tone with telling details.
3. Sentence Structure for Literary Effect
4. Creating Your “Hook”
5. Why this story is important now and why you should be writing it.
6. Creating the perfect first paragraph: A paragraph is a microcosm of the entire idea or proposal. Each one needs a beginning, a detailed middle and a conclusion.

Day 2: June 10
1. Craft the Query, based on techniques learned in Day 1
2. Profiles and Purpose/ Interview techniques
3. Analyze magazine articles to learn about structure, multiple sources, and use of research
4. Online research tools for journalists
4. Contacting Editors/ Cover Letters and bios
5. Selling your story ideas/ Power of the strong pitch
6. Discuss handout of resources for publication

Grade Options:

No Grade Requested: This is the default grade option. Just show up for class!

Requirements for a Letter Grade and/or Credit: Attend both class sessions and turn in all assignments.

*Please Note: If you require proof that you completed a Continuing Studies course for any reason (for example, employer reimbursement), you must choose either the Letter Grade or Credit/No Credit option. Courses taken for NGR will not appear on official transcripts or grade reports.