**Profile Story**

**Your deadlines**

**January 30:** Initial proposal/ideas due (oral presentation in roundtable) *2 points*

**February 6:** Finalized proposal due (oral presentation in roundtable) *2 points*

**February 20:** Draft due and Peer Review (in class on this day only for points) *1 point*

**February 27:** Final story due, uploaded to Blackboard, informal presentation *15 points*

**Profile Story Assignment:** Find a newsworthy person and write a story about them. Capture this person’s character, and their newsworthiness: in other words, what makes this person interesting or significant to a larger audience? Are they doing something unusual? Have they become particularly accomplished in some area? Please do not write about a family member for this particular assignment. You are required to make proposals and participate in a Peer Review of drafts during class to receive full credit on your draft. The story should be at least 1,000 words, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font (this is about 4 pages.) It should be written in a news style, highlighting this person’s newsworthiness, but the first-person “I” may be used if you would like. Your story must make proper use of quotes, and include an appropriate lead, “nut graph” and kicker. You must quote at least three sources from original interviews you have conducted in the final draft of the story. You must be able to interview the subject of your profile in person.

**Initial Proposal for Profile Story:** Your proposal should include descriptions of three or four people you are considering writing about. Identify your audience (IIT students, teachers, staff; IIT alumni; Chicagoans; Neighbors living around IIT, etc.) and convince us why your stories about these people could be important to them (consider our readings where the purpose of journalism is discussed.) The initial proposal is delivered orally during roundtable. Prepare for questions and feedback.

**Final Proposal for Profile Story:** Your final proposal should include a specific description of the person you plan to cover and your reporting plan. (Names, dates, times, locations, background information, scheduled interview, etc.) Also include full and spell-checked names of anyone you plan to interview for this story (Organization leaders, friends, family members, colleagues with something to say about this person, etc.) Include any other details of your reporting plan. Finally, identify your audience (IIT students, teachers, staff; IIT alumni; Chicagoans; Neighbors living around IIT, etc.) and convince us why your story is important to them (consider our readings where the purpose of journalism is discussed.) The final proposal is delivered orally during roundtable. Prepare for questions and feedback. Keep in mind your deadline! You should have already scheduled an interview with your subject by this point.

**Peer Review:** You will trade drafts with a colleague in class and edit each other’s work according to a set of standards and your own personal response as a reader and writer. You must be present on peer review day to receive credit, and you must bring a printed out copy of your draft to work with. Drafts should be at least 750 words (about 3 pages in the style required.) Feedback will be delivered verbally and in writing.

**Informal Presentation:** On the day your story is due, you will deliver an informal, roundtable presentation to the class. You will read your favorite portion of your story and give us honest feedback on your process of writing your story: the ups, the downs, the surprises. Tell us what you learned about people, about yourself as a reporter, about journalism. (This is for participation credit. It’s also a chance to tell me anything you’d like me to know about your process and experience in order to better understand your finished story.)