
Matt Zager

Writer, editor, designer

1255 Lakewood Rd., C13
Toms River, N.J. 08753
609.247.0650
mzager09@gmail.com

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Reported daily on one of the poorest cities in the U.S., Chester, Pa., as a newspaper staff writer for four years. Covered the city's state-controlled government and schools and a housing authority under federal receivership.
- Wrote about a crime-plagued city, Millville, N.J., and county government facing chronic deficits, as a police and county government reporter in Cumberland County, N.J.
- Rectified problems making deadline and meeting editor's specifications for two Central Jersey daily newspapers.
- Boosted productivity in a busy design studio by using a diverse skill set that ranges from newspaper-cover design to copy editing to troubleshooting technical problems.

SKILLS

Writing, reporting, editing, proofreading, digital design, storytelling, communications, social media, content management systems, media relations, Photoshop, InDesign, researching, Associated Press Style, HTML, CSS, JQuery, Javascript, MS Office, Google Chrome Developer Tools, Debugging

EXPERIENCE

Gannett, Neptune, NJ - *Page editor/designer*

JANUARY 2012 - JULY 2017

- Created A1 layouts for two daily newspapers per night.
- Transitioned smoothly between assignments among the 17 daily newspapers produced by our operation.
- Gained mastery in Newsgate system to serve as a resource for training and troubleshooting.
- Wrote headlines from cover to the last page of the A section for three daily newspapers per night.

Gannett, Vineland, NJ - *Reporter (The Daily Journal)*

FEBRUARY 2011 - JANUARY 2012

- Covered two beats — Millville city police and Cumberland County government — at the same time.
- Reported on shootings, drug busts, financial struggles of county government, alleged rape by law enforcement, widespread destruction of infrastructure by a storm, layoffs of county employees, sale of county assets, budgets, lawsuits, graft, elections and features.
- Filed an average of 6-10 stories per week.

Gannett, Vineland, NJ - *Copy editor/page designer (The Daily Journal)*

SEPTEMBER 2006 - FEBRUARY 2011

- Copy-edited and proofread A-section using AP style.
- Wrote all A-section headlines.
- Designed all A-section pages.

Delaware County Daily Times, PA - *Copy editor/page designer*

AUGUST 2004 - SEPTEMBER 2006

Delaware County Daily Times, PA - *Reporter*

AUGUST 2000 - AUGUST 2004

- Wrote about gang activity, rehabilitation of public housing, the lowest-performing school district in Pennsylvania, waterfront redevelopment, budgets, lawsuits, criminal cases, charter schools, poverty and elections, as a beat reporter in the city of Chester.

Delaware County Daily Times - *Reporter intern*

MAY 2000 - AUGUST 2000

Philadelphia Inquirer - *Obituary writer (temp)*

DECEMBER 1999 - JANUARY 2000

EDUCATION

West Chester University, Pennsylvania - *BA Literature*

VOLUNTEER

Literacy New Jersey, Toms River, NJ - *Tutor*

SEPTEMBER 2016 - PRESENT

Literacy Volunteers of Monmouth County, NJ - *Social media specialist*

NOVEMBER 2015 - JUNE 2016

- Built a facebook following.
- Engaged volunteers, donors, students with news about increasing literacy, statistics and updates about fundraising events and training.

YMCA Adult Education and Technology Center, Philadelphia - *Tutor*

2002 - 2004

AWARDS

Best Headline, Third Place, Daily Under 60,000

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION 2007

CLIPS

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/matt-zager-4634b819>

INTERACTIVE WEB APPLICATION

<https://phillycodequestor.github.io/gamebook/>