

Sara Cooper

I am a freelance reporter with a Masters of Science Journalism and a focus on Health, Environment and Science reporting. With a strong background in research, writing, data analysis and visualization I'm looking to investigate pressing social and environmental justice issues.

EXPERIENCE | JOURNALISM

Northwestern Medill School of Journalism | Chicago, IL

Master of Science Journalism in Health, Environment and Science Reporting; Data Journalism Concentration - September 2024 - August 2025

GPA 4.0

Researched, wrote and published stories on a wide variety of topics including mental health, environmental justice and sustainability. I demonstrated particular skill in data analysis, video production, editing and photojournalism.

Highlights include a month-long trip to the Central African Republic to report on conservation efforts. I showed independence and initiative in identifying compelling, unreported stories in one of the most inaccessible countries in the world.

Produced a short documentary on lead contamination in Chicago's water system. I proved my ability to execute outstanding work under tight deadlines, creating a published documentary in a compressed, five-week timeline.

The Chicago Reporter | Chicago, IL

Reporting Intern/ Freelancer - June 2025 - Present

Reported on the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC), criminal justice and environmental issues. I demonstrated persistence in reaching hard to contact sources through the IDOC and navigating the hurdles of their FOIA office.

EXPERIENCE | RESEARCH & ANALYTICS

TRUE Global Intelligence FleishmanHillard | New York, NY & Chicago, IL

Research Manager - August 2023 - August 2024

Senior Research Analyst - November 2022 - August 2023

Research Analyst - September 2021 - November 2022

Research Intern - April 2021 - September 2021

Worked for a top public relations company researching healthcare and technology. I synthesized data-driven insights into written and visual reports, providing quick-turn copy and data analysis to inform strategic decision making.

Notable contributions included serving as "Ecosystem Lead" in which I oversaw all data for one of TGI's principal accounts. In this role, I revamped established data workflows by introducing automated ETL processes, saving hundreds of hours in manual labor and ensuring data accuracy.

Starting as a junior-level employee, I quickly rose to a mentor position. I advocated for TGI leadership to invest in staff learning and development, securing weekly office hours where I counseled on ETL processes and data visualization. I also shared my expertise across our organization through a monthly "data viz corner" program.

OTHER EDUCATION

Wellesley College | Wellesley, MA

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology - September 2017 - May 2020

GPA 3.9

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TECHNICAL SKILLS

DATA VISUALIZATION

DATA JOURNALISM

— Python, GitHub
Workflows, JavaScript,
HTML

VIDEO EDITING

PHOTOGRAPHY

PROGRAMS

WORD

POWERPOINT

EXCEL

POWER BI

PREMIERE PRO

PHOTOSHOP

AFTER EFFECTS

OTHER WORK

Animation Assistant

OCT 2020 - SEP 2023

Rotoscoped footage for a documentary by Oscar-nominated filmmakers Dee Hibbert-Jones and Nomi Talisman.

Product Illustrator

JUN 2020 - FEB 2021

Rendered realistic digital drawings of product concepts.

3D Modeling Artist

JAN 2020 - MAY 2021

Constructed 3D models of ancient burial structures with Autodesk Maya for the Wellesley College Anthropology Department.