

Classmate Profile: Some additional information

The classmate profile assignment requires each student to produce a 750 word profile on a class mate.

The exercise requires

- an indepth interview with the subject,
- an interview with at least one other source: friend, colleague or family member and
- observation of the subject going about their daily activity.

Students will be assigned a partner in week two.

The profile should be written as if it is going on the Journalism School website as part of a section called Weekly Feature Profile. The purpose of this section is to highlight the diversity of students in the journalism program and their desires and aspirations as young media professionals.

The profile should provide a mixture of information on the student. It is a character portrait so it must provide a mix of description, anecdote and quotes. Some of the areas to explore would include:

- Family background
- Travel experiences
- Views on the media
- University experiences
- Key decision moments for career choices
- Anxieties
- Journalistic role models

This is an indicative not a comprehensive list and the types of areas covered will depend entirely on the person's experience. One person may have travelled a lot others not much at all. Some may be clear about their journalistic future others will be less certain.

Being a journalism student is the context of this profile but so is the personal life story of the student. So there must be both a balance and a connection between the different elements. Avoid an article that is all about journalism but also avoid an article that is all about the student's fascinating family background. Make the connections.

Classmate Profile Class exercise

After the profiles have been handed in we will be doing a class exercise in which you will be working in a group of five to write a single feature “How journalism students see the media and how they want to change it.”

So in the course of your initial interviews you need to be gathering information about this question even if you don’t use much or any of it in your profile.

You will also need to transcribe your interview and bring it to class so that other members of your group will have access to it.