

The Pitt News

News Section Application

News reporters serve the Pitt community by producing articles about the events and people around them. By producing fair and balanced reports, members of the news staff give Pitt students, teachers, faculty and Oakland residents the tools they need to understand the world around them, making it easier for them to make informed decisions about how to live their lives.

News reporters produce about once piece a week. Most of the time, they'll write articles for The Pitt News' print or online editions. Beginning this year, all members of the news staff will also work with the paper's multimedia staff to produce a video, podcast or slideshow, among other projects. This is all part of The Pitt News' effort to keep pace with the ever-changing world of journalism and storytelling.

Students do not need to have prior experience to become news reporters. They must, however, be eager to improve to their work. News reporters can expect to encounter short deadlines, last-minute assignments and some late nights. They should be prepared to attend weekly meetings and to make the paper a major commitment. Still, all Pitt News staff members are students as well. The news editors understand this and are willing to work with reporters to accommodate their class schedules and other commitments.

Prospective reporters can apply to join the news staff by completing a two-step process:

- Complete the attached forms and submit them to news@pittnews.com or to an editor working in The Pitt News office, 434 William Pitt Union.
- Applicants with previous experience should submit three or four samples of their work. Standard Pitt News stories tend to be about 600 to 750 words long. Stories' lengths, however, can change depending on the topics they address and the number of sources staff members must contact to write a thorough report.

Please feel free to stop by The Pitt News office to talk to News Editor Liz Navratil or Assistant News Editors Lindsay Carroll and Estelle Tran if you have any questions or concerns. You can also call the news desk at 412-648-7983 or e-mail the news editors at news@pittnews.com.

Best of luck,

Liz Navratil

Lindsay Carroll & Estelle Tran

News Staff Application

Name _____ **Year in School** _____

Major: _____ **Minor/related area:** _____

E-mail address: _____ **Phone number:** _____

Please answer the following questions. Use a separate piece of paper if necessary.

1. Why do you want to work for the news section? How will it help you achieve your long-term goals?

2. How much of a commitment do you want to make to the paper? Can you attend one-hour weekly meetings and produce at least one piece a week?

3. Are there any specific types of stories you enjoy writing - i.e. hard news, features, investigative pieces, etc.? Why? Are you interested in writing for other desks?

4. What role do you think a college newspaper should play on campus or in the Oakland community? How can The Pitt News change to better meet the demands of that role?

5. What will you bring to The Pitt News?

6. Do you have experience in the fields of news and/or writing? (Experience is not necessary).

7. You will be asked to come up with at least two story ideas every week. Please provide six story ideas that you could pursue as a Pitt News news reporter.

Please return this application and the Conflicts of Interest Disclosure Form to 434 William Pitt Union or e-mail it to news@pittnews.com. We will then contact you to set up a time to meet the editors for a short interview.

Conflicts of Interest Disclosure Form

The following information is vital to helping The Pitt News maintain the standards of ethical integrity important to the credibility of a newspaper. Omitting information from any question on this form could result in dismissal from the staff. Membership in campus or area organizations does not bar an individual from becoming a columnist.

1. List any University or community extracurricular, social or academic organizations that you take part in now, have taken part in previously, or that you plan to join. This includes volunteer groups, charities, fraternities, sororities, advocacy groups, political campaigns, student organizations and honor societies. Please indicate your position within these organizations.

2. List all jobs in the Pittsburgh area that you currently hold or have held within the past year, or that you have held at any point during your time as a student at Pitt. Please list your hours for any current job or internship you may have.

Signature_____Date_____