

Mayor Neighborhood

J335 Spring 2018

Wagner

Counts as Government Reporting

Length 800-1000 Words

Pitch (In-Class): Feb. 1, 9:00 a.m.

Story Deadline: Feb. 7, 5:00 p.m.

You are to write a story about an issue of your choosing in a Madison neighborhood. Your audience is readers of the *Madison Commons*. The only major requirement is that in addition to interviewing people in the neighborhood you have chosen, you must interview someone from the Madison Mayor's office (start here: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/mayor/mayors-staff>)

The profile should focus on the neighborhood issue you choose and contain quotes and other evidence from a variety of sources. You must also take a photo of at least one subject of your feature and write a tag line for the photo (include this at the bottom of your story, before you list your sources).

The story must be written in AP style. Aim to have a compelling lede and a clear, engaging nut graf. If you call a source, you should identify yourself to any sources as "X, doing a story on X for possible publication in *Madison Commons*, an online news outlet here in Madison." List all sources, their title (if appropriate), and contact information (i.e. phone number or email) at the bottom of the story. The source list does not count as part of the word count of the story. I reserve the right to check in with your sources.

Some good advice (except for the national audience, in this case) is here.

<https://www.nytimes.com/learning/students/writing/voices.html>

<http://www.madisoncommons.org/?q=content/madison-grant-program-aims-to-increase-community-engagement-improve-neighborhoods>

Award-winning features are here.

<http://www.pulitzer.org/bycat/Feature-Writing>

Turn in your story via Canvas by February 7, 5:00 p.m.