

Trainee Journalist Application Form - 2015

PERSONAL DETAILS			
Name			
Address			
Home Phone		Mobile	
Email		DOB	
Highest Educational Qualification			

SECTION 1 – LET'S TALK ABOUT YOU

What was the most unusual idea you had in the past 12 months? What did you do about it?

Describe the most pressured situation you have ever confronted. What happened? What did you do?

What are the types of people you struggle to work with? Why?

How would your best friend describe you in three words? What would the last person you "de-friended" on Facebook say about you in three words?

SECTION 2 – YOU, THE JOURNALIST

What qualities do you think a person needs to be a successful journalist?

What is your view of subscription news' websites? Would you pay to receive your news? Why/Why not?

Look in to your crystal ball. What do you think journalism will look like in ten years?

What do you see as the relationship between a newspaper's website and the newspaper?

What media do you consume and how often?

Which person, alive or dead, would you most like to interview and why?

SECTION 3 – JOURNALISTS' WRITING

Rewrite the following four statements as introductions to news stories

1

The small child told police the pram had got stuck in the train doors and his mum started crying.

2

The real estate agent confessed that the true facts of the transaction showed that the property had been purchased well below the asking price and the vendors were consulting their lawyers about the possibility of extracting financial compensation.

3

The party secretary said factional heavyweights would no longer determine who was eligible for pre-selection in safe seats to ensure the party's natural constituency no longer felt disenfranchised.

4

In the post-match press conference, the coach admitted that he was only looking one week ahead and the raft of injuries was par for the course.

These are the initial comments from emergency services about a traffic accident at a suburban roundabout. What would you make of them? What would you do with the story?

Ambulance spokesperson: "It looked pretty nasty. We had to take two passengers in the Hyundai to emergency but there was no saving the driver. Sadly, we see this all the time: people do need to take more care when it's raining."

Fire brigade spokesperson: "We thought there was going to be a problem with a possible explosion because the BMW's petrol tank was leaking but in the end it was just a clean up exercise for us."

Police spokesperson: "This was a fatality that didn't need to occur. We now have a life lost on a quiet suburban roundabout. It's tragic. And for local commuters, a six-hour delay while we clear the road."

Your answer

Rewrite the following details of an incident to post on a news website. Keep it to five sentences. Put a headline on it too

A riot occurred in the city. It started when police tried to move on a group of protestors who were camped outside one of the city's oldest buildings. Protestors had been there for five days. Some of them had been sleeping out. "They look dirty and disgusting," a witness to the riot said. A police spokesman said: "There were only a few of them. I wouldn't call it a riot – it was more of a disturbance." The building is the home of Melbourne's oldest cultural institution, the City Library, and will be pulled down so that a US-owned department store can be built there. No one was seriously injured but one protestor was taken to hospital. A police horse was involved in a fracas with a protestor. Police later said there were about 25 protestors at the site. Seven of them were arrested at the scene. The owners of the site didn't have anything to say but union officials who have workmen involved in building the new store said they were concerned about how many people felt strongly about the development. "Our members are at risk if this keeps up," a union official said. One of the protestors, Steven Maxwell, said at the scene that the protestors would keep up the vigil on the site because it was an important part of the city's history. Traffic around the site in Collins St was disrupted for three and a half hours while police dealt with the situation.

Your answer

SECTION 4 – JOURNALISTS’ ISSUES

What would you say to an interview subject who refused to have her picture taken and told you to instead use the image on her Facebook page?

A controversial sports scientist tweets that a football club coach who he used to work with is “a liar”. Do you write a story on the basis of the Tweet? Why? Why not?

What’s the problem with this sentence?

“The stolen bicycle became important evidence in the case that opened today at Ringwood Children’s Court.”

A man has been charged with robbing a convenience store. Police tell you that the offender did jail time for a long list of robberies during the past decade. Do you report what the police told you? Why/why not?



SECTION 5 – YOUR TURN TO DO THE JOB

Give the following three scenarios your full consideration, especially to the potential consequences of your actions. Circle your answer in black pen and then explain the reason for your choice.

You are a reporter in *The Herald Sun* newsroom. A State government media advisor calls you with the promise of an exclusive story for tomorrow about a \$70 million transport initiative for the western suburbs. The only condition is that you can't get any reaction to the story – from locals, transport users or the opposition. What do you do?

- (a) It's a great story. You talk to your editor and decide to run it without the other comments.
- (b) You feel uncomfortable about the lack of balance in the story and go back to the media advisor to try to talk them in to accepting your right to at least source reaction from a local transport pressure group.
- (c) You decide that you need the balance and don't honour the media advisor's condition. Without telling the advisor you go to the transport users' group and the opposition.
- (d) You decide that you need the balance so you call the media advisor to tell them that you can't agree to the condition. The story's not getting a run

Reason for your choice

SCENARIO 2

You are a reporter at *The Geelong Advertiser*. It is Friday, Geelong Show Day and you are sent along to do a colour story on how much it costs to have a good day at the Show. The chief of staff tells you to keep all your receipts and claim your expenses back next week but you are short of cash, your bank account is low, and you need to keep some money for the weekend. Do you:

- (a) Ring the chief of staff and ask for a loan.
- (b) Ring the chief of staff and tell her that you can't afford to do the job.
- (c) Don't say anything but ask the photographer for \$20 until payday
- (d) Go ahead but don't cover many rides or show bags because you can't afford to

Reason for your choice

SCENARIO 3

You are covering your first court case on the *Maroonah Leader*. A senior reporter tells you to seek out the court clerk to help you identify who's who in court. The clerk points out that the accused's family is sitting in court. After the hearing is adjourned, you approach the family for a comment. One of them abuses you and tells you not to write anything about their family. What do you do?

- (a) 1 Agree that you won't write a word and then write the full story, including your exchange with the family
- (b) Say nothing to the family, tell the court staff about the exchange and write the story
- (c) Say nothing to the family, go back to the office and talk to your news director about what happened
- (d) Say nothing to the family, tell your news editor that nothing much happened at court and that you don't have a story.

Reason for your choice

CHECKLIST	
Please ensure your application is complete before submitting	
Single page CV attached	✓
Answers to multiple choice questions circled in black pen	✓
Video uploaded to vimeo.com and set to private	✓
Address of the video is:	
Your vimeo password is:	

DISCLAIMER AND SIGNATURE	
I certify that the application was completed by me. If this application leads to an internship placement, I understand that false or misleading information in my application may result in my release	
Signature:	Date:

