Translating Science to the Public: Careers in Science Journalism

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Overview

- Intro to Science Writing
- What does the job involve?
  - Perks
  - Lifestyle
- Typical Career Paths
  - My Path
- Finding a Job
What is Science Writing?

Magazines
- Scientific American
- Discover
- National Geographic
- New Scientist
- Popular Science

Newspapers
- The Boston Globe
- The Washington Post

Online
- Slate
- Nautilus
- Quanta Magazine
- Live Science
- Space.com
Other Venues

- Press offices
- Radio
- TV & Film
- Museums
- Book writing
A Day in the Life of a Science Journalist

- Finding & pitching stories
- Reporting
- Writing
- Editing
- Publishing

My office
Perks of the Job

- Learn about something new every day
- Travel to conferences & events
- Meet great scientists
- See rocket launches!

Suborbital spaceflight training
Space shuttle launch pad

ALMA telescope in Chile
Lifestyle

Staff Jobs

🔹 Camaraderie of coworkers
🔹 Reliable income
🔹 Predictable routine

Freelancing

🔹 Work in your PJs!
🔹 Make your own schedule
🔹 Work on a variety of projects
Most science journalists have degrees in science, journalism, or both

Science writing graduate programs
My Path

Wesleyan University observatory library

UCSC Campus

Wesleyan observatory

Santa Cruz coast
Science Writing Grad School (Journalism Boot Camp)

- Classes on:
  - How to write a lede and a headline
  - AP Style
  - Investigative journalism
  - Feature Writing

- Internships at:
  - Newspapers
  - Press Offices
  - Radio Shows
  - Magazines

My Internships:

- SETI Institute
- Monterey County The Herald
- Stanford News Service
After Grad School: Finding a Job

- **My Path:**
  - Internship at the American Museum of Natural History
  - Internship at Discover Magazine
  - First job at SPACE.com & LiveScience

SPACE.com Staff 2008
Now: Scientific American

- Associate editor for space & physics