Guidelines for Interview Paper

1. Find a prominent communication or journalism practitioner or academician (i.e., teacher, writer, researcher).

2. Decide on a timely and relevant (even controversial) topic you want to discuss with the expert—e.g., development communication in the United States, development journalism, public journalism, peace journalism, etc.

3. Select an angle you want to pursue in the interview—e.g., relevance of development journalism to the United States, the conflict between peace journalism principles and the principle of objectivity, etc. You must have a focus—a line of questioning, not a general approach.

4. Before the interview, prepare a set of questions you want to ask. Arrange the questions in logical order. Ask the questions and jot down your answers. Your paper will be better if you are able to include exact quotes.

5. Write the paper in a feature story format—with a lead, transition paragraphs to the body of the story, the body of the story itself in logical order, and a conclusion. Include a brief description (one or two paragraphs) of the interviewee, as they do when writing personality profiles—how they look, how they speak, etc. Get a photograph to go with your feature.

6. Write the paper with the idea of possible publication. You are encouraged to submit the article for publication in newspapers or magazines in your area. Ten bonus points will be given for published articles.

7. Personal interviews are preferred, but email interviews may be accepted (with instructor’s approval) if you cannot find one willing expert in your own community.

8. Follow the AP Stylebook for writing style.

9. Write a one-page abstract for posting at the Exchange link.