

This course is for those with some experience of news writing who wish to improve their researching and writing skills, work on ways to come up with new treatments for news stories and brush up on media law. The course is ideal for those who are writing news but have not had any formal training in reporting. You will learn how to make your stories sharper, how to work faster and with greater accuracy and how to improve your news-gathering skills. The course includes practical exercises in writing, interviewing, handling press conferences and rewriting.

## Course Information

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Duration:	One day	Location:	London
Cost:	Public course: £325 plus VAT Individual tuition: £495 plus VAT	Dates:	Please call 020 7359 9880 or visit <a href="http://www.lcmj.co.uk">www.lcmj.co.uk</a>

## Key topics

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- Common news writing problem areas
- Analysing your own strengths
- Working with stories
- Finding news stories
- Handling tough interviews
- Writing against the clock
- Covering a specialist areas

## Course Outline

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### Introduction

- Common news writing problem areas
- How to assess your own weaknesses and strengths
- Turning weaknesses into strengths

### Working with stories

- How to isolate the essential facts that make a complex story news worthy
- Researching complex stories
- Developing your writing and story structuring skills

### Finding news stories

- How to build up a network of brilliant contacts who give you stories
- How to get the stories somebody doesn't want you to get
- How to cultivate the people who can either give you the information you need or help you get
- Finding off-diary stories
- Developing a real nose for news
- Verifying information

### Handling tough interviews

- Dealing with a reluctant interviewee.
- How to deal with going "off the record"
- Avoiding "no comment"

### Writing against the clock

- Almost all news reporting is carried out against a deadline and, as you advance as a news reporter, those deadlines are likely to get tighter. You'll learn some essential tips and tricks to get complex stories written on time and how to anticipate events and plan ahead

### Covering a specialist area

The next step for many reporters is to cover a specialist area - from industry or science to finance or politics. This course will look at how to develop these specialist skills and contacts in a key area.

**All courses at the London College of Media and Journalism are supported by six months telephone Helpline support.**