

**September 2016 Potpourri**  
**Prepared by Sheila Jones, CJE, for her mentees**

**Here are some ideas that might be useful as you kick off a new year. Have a great one!**

### **Adviser Tips:**

No adviser ever wants to deal with conflict over advising, but it happens regardless of what you do. Remember, that you are not alone. That's why I'm here, so never hesitate to contact me. There's also the Colorado Student Media Association (Jack and Adam), and the Student Press Law Center. In fact, here is a great link to hold onto in case you need it. (And if you are like me, you know that if you keep something, you'll never need it. It works...really!)

<http://www.splc.org/article/2014/08/splc-tip-sheet-for-student-media-advisers>

And some tips from veteran advisers. Maybe one of these will be just what you're looking for!

<http://www.schooljournalism.org/journalism-advisers-offer-advice-for-the-new-school-year/>

### **Fonts:**

Know Your Fonts: A good chart you can download and post in your classroom that will give your students important information about fonts and font use. Also, check out last year's webquest on typography and font use on my website: [jonesclassesonline.weebly.com](http://jonesclassesonline.weebly.com).

<https://electricliterature.com/infographic-know-your-fonts-19256904a5b0#.q16acfjr9>

I always like a little something fun, especially at the beginning of the year or right before a special event like Homecoming or Winter Break. Here's a chart that reveals personality traits through choice of fonts. Look closely...there's actually some truth in this.

<http://www.bullpenmarketing.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/If-You-Use-This-Font.jpg>

### **Models**

One of the best ways for students to learn what is good journalism is to read good journalism, so providing models and discussing the writer's techniques go a long way toward building strong reporting skills. Yet finding good examples is time-consuming. But thanks to the *Atlantic* magazine, here is a collated article, "Slightly More than 100 Exceptional Works of Journalism." You might find some good resources of nonfiction to use in your regular ed classes as well.

[http://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2016/08/slightly-more-than-100-exceptional-works-of-journalism/490622/?utm\\_source=atfb](http://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2016/08/slightly-more-than-100-exceptional-works-of-journalism/490622/?utm_source=atfb)

### **Style guides**

There's no time like the present for teens to become more consciously aware of diversity issues, and here's a good resource for your journalism classroom: a diversity style guide.

<http://www.diversitystyleguide.com/>

If I had a nickel for every time I reminded students to capitalize Internet in stories, my retirement would be financially more advantageous. The good news for you is that the 2016 AP Stylebook now says it's ok to write internet and web.

<http://www.quickanddirtytips.com/education/grammar/2016-updates-to-the-ap-stylebook>

### **Coaching Writing**

Each of the following offers coaching/teaching tips for writing. The second one includes advice on writing tweets — a few of you have asked about this. I also like the third one on brainstorming. It gives some good suggestions for maximizing the output of good ideas. I included the fourth one because several of you are adapting the "Humans of New York" format. I think this is a great way for you to highlight your students and community with quality features. Check the Ted idea below. And the last one on cognitive biases is probably best used with your more advanced students. I've included the jpg for the chart with this email. I could see this being used in the coaching of opinion writing, but I also think it would be great to teach these in an on-going way throughout the progression of your program through mini-lessons or staff discussions on relevant topics. This offers a great approach to critical thinking, and will definitely give students a key understanding of their own thinking and the ability to think critically of the messages around them.

- <http://www.poynter.org/2015/the-importance-of-teaching-specialized-writing-skills-to-journalism-students/328383/>
- <http://www.socialmediatoday.com/content/how-teach-live-tweeting-journalism-students>
- [http://blog.ted.com/how-to-run-a-brainstorm-for-introverts-and-extroverts-too/?utm\\_campaign=social&utm\\_medium=referral&utm\\_source=facebook.com&utm\\_content=ted-blog&utm\\_term=business](http://blog.ted.com/how-to-run-a-brainstorm-for-introverts-and-extroverts-too/?utm_campaign=social&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_content=ted-blog&utm_term=business)
- <http://ideas.ted.com/the-art-of-storytelling-according-to-the-founders-of-storycorps-and-humans-of-new-york/>
- <http://mentalfloss.com/article/68705/20-cognitive-biases-affect-your-decisions>