

MELISSA DIPENTO

Educator | Trainer | Engagement Journalist |
Multimedia Editor

PHONE ◇

Brooklyn, NY ADDRESS ◇

EMAIL ◇

SUMMARY

Engagement-focused journalist, educator, and community connector with a proven record of producing and editing impactful stories centered on underserved populations. Experienced in developing inclusive journalism curricula, managing large-scale programs and events, and fostering collaboration to drive equitable change across newsrooms, classrooms, and communities.

EDUCATION

Master's Degree in Engagement Journalism

December 2017 | CUNY Graduate School of Journalism | New York, NY

GPA: 3.9/4.0

Bachelor's Degree in Journalism

May 2008 | Temple University | Philadelphia, PA

Relevant Work: Served on the student-run newspaper, *The Temple News*, as an editor and reporter.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Professor/Lecturer

2012 - Present | Various | New York City, Philadelphia, and Online

- ◇ **2021-Present, Rutgers University**
 - Teach *Writing for Media* to 60+ undergraduates annually, focusing on journalism fundamentals, data journalism, and ethical AI use. Earned 4.5/5 in course evaluations; praised for clear, actionable feedback.
- ◇ **2021-2024, City Limits CLARIFY**
 - Led a 6-week reporting workshop each summer for NYC high school students new to journalism. Emphasized interviewing, sourcing, story structure, and coordinated newsroom tours at CBS and The New York Times.
- ◇ **2017-2024, Brooklyn College CUNY**
 - Taught diverse courses, including News Writing, Tools of Storytelling, Videography – and launched Entrepreneurial Journalism. As a faculty member, I led the scholarship committee and co-organized awards ceremonies.
- ◇ **2012-2017, Adjunct and Visiting Instructor**
 - Designed and taught journalism courses at Arizona State University, Temple University, The School of The New York Times, Marymount Manhattan College, and more – focusing on fundamentals and media literacy.

Editor

2022 - 2024 | Various | New York City and Online

- ◇ **2024, Community Info Corp – Associate Editor, The Jersey Bee**
 - Edited and coached reporters on collaborative service journalism in Essex County, NJ. Pitched, developed and taught a youth media program with Rutgers–Newark and local journalists.
- ◇ **2022 - 2023, Deputy Project Editor, MISSING THEM at THE CITY**
 - Deputy Project Editor for a COVID-19 memorial project. Managed obituaries, volunteer network, multilingual outreach (Spanish translations), and organized community events in Harlem, Bronx, and Queens.

Higher Education Support

2019 - Present | Various | New York City New Jersey

- ◇ **2024 - Present, Rutgers University, Graduate Student Services Specialist**
 - Manage communications and provide resources for graduate students, maintain databases, and prepare materials for orientation and events.
- ◇ **2019 - 2022, Educational Program Coordinator, CUNY Graduate School of Journalism**
 - Coordinated all logistics for the Executive Program orientation, guest speakers, networking, and events. Served on the Diversity Committee, helped implement speaker honorarium policy. Planned major virtual summits and workshops, mentored students, participated in admissions, and managed social media.

Journalist/Multimedia Reporter

2008 - 2015 | Various | New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware

- ◇ **2014-2015, Technical.ly Media, Reporter**
 - Covered technology and entrepreneurship in Delaware. Built relationships with local leaders; published and promoted stories online.
- ◇ **2012-2014, Broad Street Media, Managing Editor**
 - Managed weekly South Jersey Wire papers, reported and edited, and supervised freelancers and interns.
- ◇ **2012-2013, NJ.com/The South Jersey Times, Reporter**
 - Reported on politics and education, interviewing sitting Congress members and Cory Booker. Covered breaking news on tight deadlines.
- ◇ **2008-2012, Elauwit Media/The Sun, Reporter**
 - Produced all weekly content for three weekly Sun Newspapers – writing, photography, and layout.
- ◇ **2007, The Philadelphia Inquirer, Intern**
 - Published 10+ bylined stories as a college intern on the local news desk.
- ◇ **2004-2008, The Temple News, Editor and Reporter**
 - Editor and reporter covering major political events, including Barack Obama’s 2008 speech and Hillary Clinton’s campaign.

KEY SKILLS

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| ◇ Engagement Journalism & Community Reporting | ◇ Bilingual Communication (Conversational Spanish) |
| ◇ Multimedia Editing & Content Production | ◇ Stakeholder & Community Engagement |
| ◇ Curriculum Development & Instruction | ◇ Digital & Social Media Strategy |
| ◇ Event Planning & Program Coordination | ◇ Data Journalism & Ethical AI Integration |