

MELISSA DIPENTO

Brooklyn, NY | [\[Email\]](#) | [\[Portfolio\]](#) | [\[LinkedIn\]](#)

SUMMARY

Engagement-focused journalist and editor with experience reporting, editing, and leading community-centered newsroom initiatives. Proven ability to produce impactful service journalism, build audience trust, and develop youth-driven reporting programs.

JOURNALISM EXPERIENCE

Associate Editor, The Jersey Bee (Community Info Corp) — 2024

- Edited and coached reporters on service journalism covering food insecurity and public resources in Essex County, NJ
- Collaborated with local journalists and partners to produce community-centered reporting
- Pitched and co-developed a youth media program in partnership with Rutgers University–Newark
- Guided students in producing a zine-style voter guide for teens, distributed to 1,000+ community members
- Contributed to a winning submission for the Global Youth & News Media Prize, recognizing youth-driven local journalism initiatives

Deputy Project Editor, MISSING THEM at THE CITY — 2021–2023

- Assigned and edited obituaries for a large-scale memorial project documenting New Yorkers who died from COVID-19
- Co-managed editorial workflows and coordinated a network of volunteers
- Led community engagement across the Bronx, Queens, and Harlem, including listening sessions and public events
- Built partnerships with local organizations to inform reporting and strengthen community trust
- Translated outreach materials and story content into Spanish and Mandarin to expand reach
- Supervised and mentored 20+ student interns during a 6-week reporting program
- Contributed to a project memorializing nearly 2,700 New Yorkers, including public installations in the Bronx and Elmhurst, Queens

Reporter, Technical.ly Media — 2014–2015

- Served as the publication's first Delaware-based reporter, covering technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship
- Reported on startups, events, and regional economic trends
- Built relationships with founders, investors, and public officials
- Published digital stories and promoted content across social platforms

Managing Editor, Broad Street Media — 2012–2014

- Managed production of eight weekly newspapers serving South Jersey

- Edited all copy and supervised freelancers and interns
- Designed layouts (InDesign) and edited photography (Photoshop)
- Ensured timely publication under tight deadlines

Reporter, The South Jersey Times (NJ.com) — 2012

- Covered local government, politics, and education across five municipalities
- Produced daily and enterprise stories for daily print and digital editions
- Generated story ideas, conducted interviews, and reported on daily deadlines

Reporter & Associate Editor, Elauwit Media (The Sun Newspapers) — 2008–2012

- Produced full weekly editions for three community newspapers
- Reported, wrote, photographed, and designed layouts
- Covered local government and community issues

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Journalism Educator (Various Institutions) — 2012–Present

- Taught journalism at institutions including Rutgers University, Arizona State University, Brooklyn College CUNY, and Temple University
- Designed courses in reporting, writing, multimedia storytelling, and data journalism
- Developed and taught an Entrepreneurial Journalism course
- Mentored students in reporting, interviewing, and story development

Journalism Instructor, City Limits / NYC SYEP — 2022–2024

- Led a journalism program for high school students focused on reporting and storytelling
- Guided students in covering real-world stories at City Hall and across NYC
- Recruited and hosted guest speakers across journalism disciplines
- Designed curriculum aligned with newsroom practices
- Worked with students to report and publish stories for City Limits

EDUCATION

M.A., Engagement Journalism

CUNY Graduate School of Journalism

B.A., Journalism

Temple University

SKILLS

Editing • Reporting • Audience Engagement • Service Journalism • Interviewing • Project Management
• Digital Publishing • Adobe Suite • Conversational Spanish