

The University of New England Takes On Journalism

At the University of New England, students a part of the student newspaper 'The Bolt' have answers to how they started their journey in journalism, through the student newspaper.

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Student newspapers have the power to foster creativity, critical thinking, and communications skills. They give students a platform to voice their opinion, explore interests and boost involvement in the community. The Bolt, is an online student newspaper with around thirteen staff writers that produces articles about local news and the happenings around campus.

CJ Greenway, a junior and a Nursing Major, joined The Bolt with no previous experience in journalism. "When I started at The Bolt I started with an opinion piece, and not really knowing too much about journalism. So I decided to dip my foot in the water and start off by writing something I was interested about and passionate about."

Most staff writers a part of The Bolt started by just writing about what interested them. But over time most staff writers have developed a certain topic that they find themselves good at covering.

Senior, ('25) Emily Hedegard, an English, Communication and Media Arts major, who is currently the editor in chief of The Bolt. Provides a safe space for all staff writers to start their journey in journalism.

"Our editor Emily (Hedegard) pitches different story ideas that she has and we are able to choose what interests us the most, and we are able to have some wiggle room to work around, having that wiggle room really helps develop articles and develop better experience" Greenway added.

Greenway has written many articles contributing to The Bolt, Like an opinion piece on airport transportation, and has covered a couple of sport pieces. By working on different

types of articles, either feature stories or hard news; Greenway states “they all give you a better experience in journalism.”

Staff writer Arianna Ochs, a sophomore and a Marine Science Major, says that a big part of her getting started was covering what people seemed to be excited about. “There are tons of things that happen on campus from, guest lectures, and different sport events.”

“So for us a big part in deciding article topics is are people excited about the topic? and does it excite the writer” added Ochs.

Hedegard mentions the importance of getting experience writing about local news and national news. “When we write about national topics, we ask how we can localize it? Because local level journalism is really important and helps get rid of the polarized reporting that comes from national journalism.” Hedegard says.

Every journalist has to start somewhere, and a great way to do it is with a student newspaper. By using the newspaper to gain experience, It has the possibility of opening more doors as a journalist.