

Midterm Internship Reflections

Writing: So far in my internship with Save the Children Jordan (SCJ) I have been given multiple opportunities to write in a variety of different platforms. As the Communications Intern in the Advocacy, Media and Communications (AMC) Department I have had to hone my writing skills on social media, in news articles and in strategic communication reports. Each day I have had to publish different social media posts on platforms such as Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. Each platform having a different and distinctive style of writing. In terms of news writing, I have been putting together different news articles about Save the Children that have been published on SCJ's website. I am hoping one of my pieces will also be picked up and published by The Jordan Times. Lastly, I've been working on my strategic communication writing because I've been in charge of putting together SCJ's monthly Situation Reports. These reports focus on the different strategies SCJ departments have been taking to improve the lives of the children the organization is working with. These reports are sent to Save the Children International. I've learned a lot about the different styles of writing used on these varying platforms, as well as the type of language SCJ most commonly uses. As a whole, the majority of the work published by the AMC Department is excellent, but I have noticed the department does not prioritize their news writing and that some of the stories online are very outdated and seem hastily done. I hope to continue to raise the bar in terms of news writing within the organization.

Technology: I have been using technology during my internship, most commonly my Canon DSLR camera. I've been able to produce a range of photos during the field days in Zaatari Refugee Camp. So far, I am very proud of the photos I have taken, as they all include incredible subjects with fascinating stories. I've also been using social media a lot, so I've been able to produce a wide range of Facebook and Instagram posts, Twitter tweets, as well as livestream videos. In my workplace, the different Adobe applications such as Photoshop, InDesign, InCopy and Premiere are most commonly used to finesse the content we get from the field. I've learned a lot more about taking portrait shots as that is the majority of the photos we take. This will be incredibly helpful skill I will be sure to use as my journalistic career continues. To succeed in this work environment taking photos is one of the most important skills to have because that is how these stories are being spread. I've also learned to be a successful worker in any field, you need to be able to utilize technology.

Creativity: This has been a key part of my internship so far. There are two moments I distinctly remember being pushed to be more creative. The first was when the AMC Department was brainstorming for new ideas to promote our social media presence. Everyone on the team was asked to come up with an idea that could work and I came up with themed photo series promoting the lives of refugees in Zaatari. The first idea I had was a series on the businesses of Zaatari. SCJ really focuses on helping refugees, especially women, develop skills they can apply in daily life. I wanted to focus a series of photos on refugees SCJ had helped train and now had their own successful businesses within the refugee camp. This would not only promote SCJ, but also show viewers the life of a working refugee. The second creative moment was when I was tasked with creating ways to improve the Situation Report. During the time I was working on it, the workflow to complete the task was incredibly inefficient and didn't allow for cohesive and collaborative work. I came up with the idea of transferring our entire workflow onto Google

Docs. This would allow for simultaneously editing and really improve the process. The idea was taken well and the first Google Document based Situation Report will come out in July.

Ethics: The Society of Professional Journalists Code of Ethics is the code that best aligns with the industry I am working in. During my first month working for the AMC Department, I have not noted any ethical issues at the workplace. Every member of my team is devoted to telling the stories of the refugees they are reporting on as accurately as possible. As a branch of an NGO, there are two main codes of ethics we need to follow that are used throughout all of the Save the Children offices. The two codes being titled “Safeguarding Children in Our Communication and Media Work” and “Image Guidelines: How we make, gather and use images.” We abide by these codes of ethics by following the protocol for every stage of the reporting process. These are some of the most basic practices we follow; before the interview we obtain digital consent, when we arrive at the interview location we make sure that all of the questions are translated into Arabic and that the subject understands exactly what we are asking, if the subject is under the age of 18, we also make sure their parents are within speaking distance, lastly, after the interview we obtain written consent and give the subject our contact information. So that if they wish to withdraw consent in the future they can contact us and do so. This code is strictly followed, there is a three-strike policy for all reporters, if any reporter violates the code three times, their reporting privileges will be revoked.

Conclusion: I have been able to develop several work samples that I am very much looking forward to putting on my portfolio. I will most certainly be putting my Situation Reports on my portfolio to showcase my strategic communications writing and to show potential employers I can do more than just write news. I will also be adding the best photos I have taken to the “Photography” section of my portfolio. All of the individuals photographed have already signed consent forms, so I do have the ability to put the photos on my portfolio. I will also be able to put the news articles I have written for SCJ’s website on my portfolio, as all of the subjects I have interviewed have also given their consent. If I am fortunate enough to have one of my stories published by The Jordan Times, I will also be able to have that on my portfolio. So far in my internship, these are the work samples I have been able to develop for my portfolio. On a scale from 1 to 5, I would evaluate my experience at my internship so far as a five. I’ve been really bonding with the other people in my department because we all share similar reasons for being here. As well as that, the department is relatively small so I’ve been given a lot of responsibilities. This has made me feel relevant but has also led to my coworkers respecting me more because they see the effort I am putting in. I’ve also been improving my Arabic skills, which will hopefully give me an advantage when I continue to learn the language at Elon. Lastly, I really believe in the work I am doing. I actually think the stories we are telling and the grunt work we do everyday actually helps the lives of the refugees we are reporting on. This has made even the most menial tasks fulfilling.