

Recommended Summer Reading

There is no required summer reading for journalism, but you are strongly urged to read a newspaper for 20 minutes several times every week. This is an excellent habit to be in for several reasons: (1) it will help you to stay informed about what's going on in your world, from the local to national to international; (2) it will expose you to journalistic writing, which is what we'll be doing in the fall; (3) it will allow you to choose particular stories to explore, based on your interest; (4) it will help you start to see the different kinds of journalism that are out there; (5) it could help you to form an excellent habit.

Here are a few tips for your reading:

1. If you have a newspaper subscription (paper delivery or online), you might start here.
2. A lot of news is available for free online, while some will allow you to read a certain number of articles a month for free. Some sites to look at: Local papers: *Democrat and Chronicle* and *City Newspaper*. National Papers; *NY Times*, *Washington Post*, *USA Today*.
3. The *NY Times* web page has a Learning Network blog that will include links to news articles. One of the benefits here is that the articles they link to are always free. Find it here: <http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/>.
4. A lot of the shows on cable news are opinion-based. Seek out news that goes for a more objective stance.
5. Look for some diversity. Read a paper/magazine that has a political agenda different than your own; read something from a different country or in a different language (if you have the language skills).
6. Go to the library or Barnes and Noble, and see what they have there.