# Solutions Journalism Project

Your goal is to use the tools of multimedia journalism (text, audio, video, photos and graphics) to create a project to publish publicly. The goal of this project is to serve readers of our campus community and/or the district area with an in-depth look at an issue pertinent to community concerns. When finished, the stories, as a group, will be shared via ccclarion.com, logosmagazinecc.com or a site created by the class.

**Timeline**
- **By Wednesday, March 5:** The class will choose a broad content topic under which the work will be done. By this date, students will also decide whether to work together on one presentation (maximum five students per group) or if they will separately work on stories under the chosen topic. *(10% of final grade)*
- **By Monday, March 17**: Students will pitch either a specific story they would like to tell OR pitch their proposed role as part of the team telling a larger story. This will be presented orally in class on March 17. Students must also submit an "issue brief" that outlines previous coverage and the holes of that coverage. *(10% of final grade)*
- **By Monday, March 24**: Students will submit a formal proposal outlining either their story pitch OR their role in their group. *(10% of final grade)*
- **By Wednesday, April 2**: Students will submit an outline for their story OR submit a group outline that describes the roles that each student will have in the project. The outline must include notes from at least one interview or listening session that the student has done with someone related to the topic at hand OR notes from at least two interviews or listening sessions done by the group as a whole. *(10% of final grade)*
- **Deadlines to be determined (no later than Wednesday, April 30)**: Specific draft deadlines for stories OR specific content deadlines for a group story. Deadlines will be determined by the nature of the story. *(10% of final grade)*
- **By Wednesday, June 4**: Students will publish their final project. To be considered: Adherence to style, conciseness, clarity, accuracy, balance, diversity of media choices, technical competence, adherence to group and proposal goals, on-time publication. *(50% of final grade)*

**Requirements**
- **For individual stories**: (1) Conduct AT LEAST five interviews. When your final assignment is turned in to your instructor, you must include contact information – telephone number AND email address – for ALL of your sources that you contacted for this story. Not all sources interviewed need to be included in the story, but all sources interviewed must be included on your source list. (2) Produce a story that uses at least THREE of the five elements of multimedia journalism (text, audio, video, photos, graphics).
- **For group stories**: (1) Every student will be responsible for a certain number of interviews, to be determined by the nature and direction of the story. The minimum for

each student will be AT LEAST four. (2) Together, produce a story that uses ALL FIVE of the elements of multimedia journalism (text, audio, video, photos, graphics).

For both individual and group stories, stories will need to have appropriate depth and breadth to fully and fairly cover the issue.

**Any students who fabricate or plagiarize parts of their stories or multimedia elements, or who submit sources who refute the fact that an interview was conducted for the purpose of this assignment, will receive an automatic grade of 0 on the assignment as a whole and may face further disciplinary action.**

For this assignment, students cannot:
1. Use students enrolled in COMM 250, 240, 230, 280 or 103 as sources.
2. Use the course instructor(s) of COMM 250, 240, 230, 280 or 103 as sources.
3. Write about groups or organizations of which they are a part, either now or in the past, or write about people with whom they have compromised relationships, such as family, close friends or employers. Students should follow the Society of Professional Journalists' ethical guidelines and avoid all potential conflicts of interest, either real or perceived.

**Assignment goals**
- Informing the community affected by the issue
- Reaching a diverse group of sources
- Preparing students for public display of work
- Finding "the story behind the story" and considering more non-official, non-governmental, non-administration sources
- Applying Solutions Journalism principles to journalistic work

**Final project checklist**
- ✓ **Story:** Final draft version of the story published online at ccclarion.com, logosmagazinecc.com or class independent site.
- ✓ **Multimedia elements**: Final draft versions posted with the story.
    - ○ **Photos and cutlines**: Photos must be taken by students. All published photos need to have a cutline explaining the who, what, when and where of the photo, as well as any other necessary context.
    - ○ **Video**: Must be taken and produced by students and uploaded to the YouTube channel of either the Clarion or of Logos.
    - ○ **Graphics**: Must be created by students. Embeddable elements need to be published by institutional accounts – for example, anything built in Flourish will need to be published through the Clarion's Flourish account, not a personal account.
    - ○ **Audio**: Must be recorded and produced by students. Audio could include either raw audio or edited audio packages, such as NPR-style audio news stories or podcasts.
    - ○ **Text**: Must be written and edited by students.
    - ○ **Other elements**: To be discussed on a case-by-case basis. This includes multimedia web publishing elements such as "scrollytelling," embedded

documentation, data and databases, animation, illustrations, photo illustrations, etc.

**Potential topics for students to consider**
- Concerns of specific populations in the community (immigrant, LGBTQ, veterans, others)
- Homeless community near/at Citrus
- On-campus infrastructure (Measure Y)
- Off-campus infrastructure (roads, rails, bridges, airports)
- Academic achievement measures for community colleges
- COVID-19 recovery and resilience
- Student resources on and off campus
- First-generation student experience
- Other issues as discussed