J463/563: Solutions Journalism

Submit the part one of your Idea Memo on **Jan. 20**. Only one person in the group needs to submit it to Canvas.

Required content

1) Overarching story idea
   -What is the solution you plan to report on for your project?

   Be specific. (Ex. don't just write "local success stories of combating childhood obesity." Say something like, "Childhood obesity appears to be declining in Eugene faster than the rest of Oregon. We're going to explore why and how." If you have more than that, such as a specific program or initiative, then include that too.)

2) Proposed cast of characters
   - You must list at least three academic sources (both primary and secondary) and at least three people you plan to contact who are "everyday" people. If you're not exactly sure of the exact individuals you can include the idea of the person and how you would find them. Remember that you can ask program directors to help you find people, but more rigorous reporting comes from bottom-up interviewing. Aim for both.
   (Ex. "I'll need to talk to parents and children who've participated in Lane County's Get Healthy initiative. I plan to attend the next community meeting to find those sources.")

   At the end of your memo, please also include in list format an ongoing source list with names, emails and phone numbers. At the end of the term you'll need to include this with your final project. Keep all sources you reviewed or seriously considered contacting on the source list and put an asterisk in front of any you end up including in your final project.

3) Existing story review
   - On Thursday, I'll send you SoJo stories related to your big picture issue. Read them and summarize (in full paragraphs) what the solution was and what sources were used. Also, explain what framing question the story relies on.

   (Ex. In "Hawaii Trailblazing Healthcare Underscores Disparity" reporter Noam Levey explores why Hawaiians are among the healthiest Americans and suggests the answer is the state's "trailblazing" health care system and long-standing policy of near-universal health coverage. As evidence, Levey cites data from the Commonwealth Fund, Hawaiians who've successfully battled major diseases, etc. etc……. The story frame is positive deviance, identifying Hawaii as an outlier in American health care quality, results and coverage and explaining how and why Hawaii achieved these results.)

   While the solutions described in these stories are unlikely to be exactly the solution

you'll report on (unless you get lucky), these stories can teach you how other reporters approached the same issue – ex. childhood obesity – and came up with a solutions story. I want you to think about how reporters approach an issue to ferret out and construct SoJo stories.

Format

Please format this like a memo at top. (Just Google an example.) Create subheds for each of the three required contact areas. In addition to your proposed case of characters overview, put a source list at the end of your document that you can continue adding to during the quarter.

Additional tips

I suggest sharing this file via Google Docs (or something similar) with your teammates and tracking changes within the document so you all can see and respond to each other's contributions. Each time you finalize the Idea Memo for submission to Canvas, save it as a final (appropriately named) file after turning off track changes.

I expect that you'll have more information than I requested on this document and I encourage you to use this as a team tool, especially as you'll need to detail your entire reporting process for your final project. However, at each juncture I'm requiring only certain amounts to take into account variation in the reporting process.

J463/563: Idea Memo Part One Rubric

Total points possible: 50 (25 for content and 25 for edits)

- Edits will be graded according to editing scale in syllabus; editing scores will be converted to a 25-point scale. (See next page for synopsis of syllabus.)
- Content will be graded according to the table below.

<u>Content</u>

	High (8-10 pts.)	Mid (4-7 pts.)	Low (0-3 pts.)
AI questions	Includes two thoughtful AI questions.	Questions are not thoughtful or relevant to story idea.	Includes fewer than two questions.
Story model: proposed story	Suggests a story model and includes thoughtful explanation.	Story model suggested isn't supported.	Doesn't include a story model.
Story models: existing story review	Includes story model IDs	Includes only ideas of relevant people but not actual people or does not include contact info.	Includes fewer than three relevant everyday people.
SoJo story overview	Summarizes (in full paragraphs) each of the five stories: solution described, framing question and types of sources used.	Summary lacks one or more of solution described, framing question and types of sources.	Doesn't summarize for all five stories.
Source List	Provides separate source list info at end of memo for all sources (primary and secondary) and includes contact info (name, title, phone and email) or retrieval info for secondary academic sources.	Source list is incomplete and lacks contact and/or retrieval info.	Doesn't include source list.

Editing Criteria

Basic Edit Examples

Spelling error, fragment, missing period, factual error, poor content

Advanced Edit Examples

Wordiness, weak verbs, passive voice, lack of strategic thinking, poor framing, organizational problems, comma placement, lack of parallel structure

I will accept passive voice when the object is the emphasis of the sentence.

A (4.0 or 90-100): Excellent

You can make between zero and three advanced edits. Your work exhibits excellent comprehension and performance.

B (3.0 or 80-89): Above Average

You can make four to seven advanced edits. Your work does not have basic errors.

C (2.0 or 70-79): Meets Minimum Standards

You can make eight to 11 edits (basic, advanced or both). If the work has a basic edit, it starts at a C.

D (1.0 or 60-69): Does Not Meet Standards

You would need to make 12-15 edits (basic, advanced or both). If the work has at least two basic edits, it starts at a D.

F (0.0 or 59 or below): Unacceptable

You need to make at least 16 edits (basic, advanced or both). The work demonstrates unsatisfactory writing mechanics.

J463/563: Solutions Journalism

Submit the part two and three of your Idea Memo on **Feb. 1**. Only one person in the group needs to submit it to Canvas.

*Please submit this via Canvas as a **separate** assignment from your optional Idea Memo Part One rewrite, which is also due Monday.*

Required content
1) Write two appreciate inquiry questions you might ask regarding your story. It can be questions you might ask at the beginning to help frame the story or questions you might ask a specific source you've already identified. If it's the latter, please include the source's name, title and your reason for asking this question.
2) Suggest a story model for your story idea based on what you know so far. Explain why you think this might work as a story model. It's okay if team members later change their minds. In fact, for your final project you'll need to present a narrative about how you reported your story idea - discussion of roadblocks and turning points is welcome.
3) Look at the stories you reviewed for your existing story review for Idea Memo Part One. Write one sentence about each story that tells what you think the story model used was and why/how it fits the story.
    Ex. The story "Hawaii Trailblazing Healthcare Underscores Disparity" relied on positive deviance as a story model because the data suggests that Hawaii is a positive outlier when it comes to Americans' health and that Hawaii's health care model of universal insurance is also a positive outlier.

J463/563: Idea Memo Part One Rubric

Total points possible: 50 (30 for content and 20 for edits)

- Edits will be graded according to editing scale in syllabus; editing scores will be converted to a 25-point scale.
- Content will be graded according to the table below.
- See next page for synopsis of syllabus writing mechanics scoring.

Content

	High (8-10 pts.)	Mid (4-7 pts.)	Low (0-3 pts.)
AI questions	Includes two thoughtful AI questions.	Questions are not thoughtful or relevant to story idea.	Includes fewer than two questions.
Story model: proposed story	Suggests a story model and includes thoughtful explanation.	Story model suggested isn't supported.	Doesn't include a story model.
Story models: existing story review	Includes story model IDs and the explanation for all five stories.	Includes story model IDs and the explanation for fewer than five stories.	Includes story model IDs only or explanations only.

Editing Criteria

Basic Edit Examples

Spelling error, fragment, missing period, factual error, poor content

Advanced Edit Examples

Wordiness, weak verbs, passive voice, lack of strategic thinking, poor framing, organizational problems, comma placement, lack of parallel structure

I will accept passive voice when the object is the emphasis of the sentence.

A (4.0 or 90-100): Excellent

You can make between zero and three advanced edits. Your work exhibits excellent comprehension and performance.

B (3.0 or 80-89): Above Average

You can make four to seven advanced edits. Your work does not have basic errors.

C (2.0 or 70-79): Meets Minimum Standards

You can make eight to 11 edits (basic, advanced or both). If the work has a basic edit, it starts at a C.

D (1.0 or 60-69): Does Not Meet Standards

You would need to make 12-15 edits (basic, advanced or both). If the work has at least two basic edits, it starts at a D.

F (0.0 or 59 or below): Unacceptable

You need to make at least 16 edits (basic, advanced or both). The work demonstrates unsatisfactory writing mechanics.

J463/563: Solutions Journalism

Submit the part two and three of your Idea Memo on **Feb. 8**. Only one person in the group needs to submit it to Canvas.

*Please submit this via Canvas as a **separate** assignment from other Idea Memo assignments. For now, just put it on one page; you can incorporate it into the rest of your Idea Memo later.*

Required content
1) Write three possible and probable "reporting for how" questions that you might ask a program director about how the solution you're reporting on works. Write about two sentences explaining who the source is and why you think asking these questions will be helpful to explain the solution using a "howdunit" structure. (I realize that these questions are your best guesses at this point. More helpful questions might develop as you report further. But for now, I'm looking to see your approach to "reporting for how.")

Rubric
Total points possible: 25 (20 for content and 5 for edits)
- Edits will be graded according to editing scale in syllabus; editing scores will be converted to a 5-point scale based on the syllabus writing mechanics schema.

Content

	High (8-10 pts.)	Mid (4-7 pts.)	Low (0-3 pts.)
"Reporting for how" questions	Includes two thoughtful "reporting for how" questions.	Questions are not thoughtful or relevant to story idea.	Includes fewer than two questions.
Explanation and source identification	Explanation is thoughtful and identifies source.	Explanation is somewhat thoughtful and identifies source.	Explanation is neither thoughtful now is source identified.