ON OUR RADAR

Community Reporter training - curriculum overview

This training is typically delivered across 3-5 days.

Do you want to share your own story to drive change? This training is for anyone who is interested in being a community reporter. It covers everything you need to know to start documenting and sharing your own and your community's life experiences and stories in order for them to be seen, heard and understood.

By the end of this training, participants will:
- Understand the potential and risks of community reporting
- Be able to make an informed decision about sharing their own story
- Have tools and techniques to tell their communities' stories
- Understand the risks, safety considerations and ethical implications of telling their and others' stories
- Have explored options available for producing audio-visual content
- Understand how to identify misinformation and verify stories

Module 1: Shifting power through community reporting
What is community reporting? How can it bring underreported stories to light? This first module introduces the concept of a community reporter and outlines the power of stories and the value of lived experiences.

What we will look at
- The power of stories
- Definition and background of community reporting
- What makes a good community reporter? Roles and responsibilities
- Different models of community reporting (rapid coverage, longitudinal journey, deep dive)
- Impact of community reporting: personal vs the political - from the micro to the macro
- The power of lived experience - shifting power from traditional media to communities with lived experience

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Module 2: Telling your own story

Our stories are powerful. This module looks at the importance of your own experiences and shares tips on how to set boundaries when sharing your story. It also helps us think through purpose and audience.

What we will look at
- Discover, re-discover or reaffirm your own origin story
- Understanding audiences - who do you want to reach and how to do this
- Purpose - what impact do you want to see as a result of sharing your story
- Where and when to share your story - setting boundaries and protecting yourself

Module 3: Reporting from your community

How can community reporting shift the power? This module looks at how we can gather and share stories that may otherwise remain unheard.

What we will look at
- Defining our communities - understanding the context and dynamics
- Mapping our communities - thinking about connections and power
- Inclusive reporting - making sure we amplify a diverse range of perspectives
- Interviewing others - holding sensitive conversations, using open & closed questions, informed consent
- Becoming a respected community reporter and building trust with the community
- Sourcing stories beyond new events - develop original thoughts on existing stories, explore existing issues in more depth, find new voices or angles on well-known issues

Module 4: Ethics, risks and safety

Keeping safe when reporting is important - no story is worth putting yourself or others at risk. In this module, we look at the role of ethics in community reporting and share tips for staying safe when gathering and sharing stories.

What we will look at
- Ethics - facts vs. opinions and avoiding bias and prejudice
- Informed consent
- Privacy
- Risks - keeping yourself and others safe
- Safe reporting scenarios

Module 5: Audio-visual storytelling

How is audio-visual storytelling different to traditional storytelling? This module looks at the different elements involved in making a compelling story and gives practical tips on recording audio and video on a smartphone.

What we will look at
- What makes a compelling audio-visual story? Thinking through access, narrative, energy, emotion, and location
- Scouting locations - places and spaces that are visually interesting and provide context for your characters
- Mixing media - mobile footage, audio, animation, illustration, and photography coming together
- Top tips for recording audio on your smartphone
- 8 tips for shooting video on your smartphone
- Thinking about co-production - community decisions on what story they want to tell, and how they want to present or visualise that story
- Closing the feedback loop

Module 6: How to identify misinformation and verify stories

The internet is full of information but how do we tell what is fact and what is opinion? This module delves deeper into misinformation and provides key tips for verifying the stories you are reporting.

What we will look at
- Raising awareness of misinformation
- The importance of verification
- Top tips for verifying content

Bonus resource: Engaging with the press

Engaging with the press can help amplify our stories. This bonus module provides guidance for independent community reporters to engage with the press, including advice for pitching their stories, receiving compensation for content and factors to consider when deciding to share their story with media outlets.

What we will look at
- Advice for pitching editors
- Considerations for sharing your story with a publication/outlet
- Rights - what are the author's rights before, during and after the story/ content is published?
- Receiving compensation for content

Bonus resource: Public speaking

Public speaking can be a powerful way to share your story or share a call to action. In this bonus module, we look at public speaking and how to connect with the audience in the process.

What we will look at
- Forms of public speaking
- The three driving forces of public speaking
- Structuring a speech or a presentation: stories, facts, ideas
- Connecting with the audience

Bonus resource: Mobile journalism production skills

Everyone now has the potential to share their stories through their phones. This bonus module delves deeper into audio-visual storytelling, with a specific focus on mobile journalism production skills - how to shoot, frame and edit content.

What we will look at
- The four key tools of a visual story (including master interviews and pieces to camera)
- Shot types and angles
- Frames and compositions
- Filming dialogue
- Twelve editing principles

On Our Radar have developed a full reporter training curriculum and an adaptable training programme that covers these modules. These modules can also be delivered remotely.

Please get in touch at info@onourradar.org for more information.