FEATURE EDITOR

Fall 2020

The feature editor is responsible for overseeing *the Wire’s* weekly features section, generating ideas for its written and visual content and implementing their vision in the paper. Generally, feature stories are longer and more in-depth than a typical news article and are centered around a theme which changes from week to week.

On a practical level, the feature editor comes up with the weekly concept/theme, including story ideas and a graphic concept. They assign articles to feature staff writers at Sunday all-staff meetings and coordinate with photographers or illustrators to plan the section’s visual appearance. The feature editor also meets with a member of the production staff once a week to oversee the layout of the page. They will edit stories & provide feedback to the writers and will be in the newsroom for Wednesday night production to assist in the layout of the feature page.

Each editor is responsible for soliciting applications and hiring a team of writers at the beginning of each semester as well as mid-semester as necessary.

Experience working for a newspaper, magazine or other print production is important for this position – experience with journalistic writing, especially long-form journalism, is strongly recommended. It helps to understand *the Wire’s* production schedule and have experience editing others’ written work.

Approximate time commitment: 9 hours per week

The Feature Editor should have the following skills:

* Strong writing ability
* Familiarity with journalistic and nonfiction feature writing
* Ease talking to new people, confidence in interview situations
* Strong phone and email skills
* Responsibility and self-accountability
* Awareness of news, blogs & current events
* Prior experience as a reporter/writer for *The Pioneer* is highly recommended
* Ability to think creatively about graphics/design for the feature page

Please fill out the questions below and submit with two writing samples to wire@whitman.edu by midnight on Sunday, June 28th. **Candidates who have previously held an editorial position on *the Wire* may skip questions 1 and 6.**

Name:

Graduating Year:

Email address:

1. Please describe any relevant writing or editing experience you have. Have you worked on a publication like *the Wire*? What experience do you have in a leadership position?
2. If you have previously held an editorial position on *the Wire*, what would you do differently this semester? If you have never held an editorial position on *the Wire*, why are you interested in being an editor?
3. What are your goals for *the Wire* this year? What would you like to see the paper do more of, or do better or differently?
4. What goals do you have for the feature section?
5. Please pitch 3 ideas for feature section themes. Include the theme (eg. Board of Trustees), as well as the two (or more) articles you would assign that are related to this theme. In general, how would you ensure that your section has a cohesive theme while also presenting readers with diverse and interesting information?
6. Please describe your ability to meet deadlines and work under pressure.
7. What other activities will you be involved in this semester, and how much of a weekly time commitment are these activities? How heavy is your academic course load for this semester?

Please include two writing samples, preferably of journalistic writing.