

Miranda Stambler

Hometown: Walkersville, MD

School: ND State University

Internship: Bismarck Tribune



Three months inside The Bismarck Tribune newsroom has jumpstarted my career into the media world. At the beginning of my internship my experience did not go beyond the classroom and my college newspaper. Now, I feel more prepared for my future through the skills I have learned and the experience I have practiced.

Originally, my skills were mostly in feature writing and although that seems to be my niche, I have expanded my knowledge to briefs and breaking news. One of my favorite moments was writing about breaking news. It encompassed a fast paced reporting style where multiple interviews and writing needed to be done within a short amount of time. For example, I wrote about a tornado that happened the night before and needed to get the information out quickly and accurately. Within an hour my interviews and story were completed.

My writing skills have changed for the better. The classroom teaches you, but experience shows you. Through my internship I received notes on all of my articles. I started to notice a trend of missing a “nut graph,” which is after the lede and explains what the story is about. Since I had the repetitive notes I was able to see a change in my articles and now all of them have a nut graph.

The range of topics I have wrote about in the past months has given me the experience and knowledge of things I never thought about. As a reporter one must conduct interviews and learn quickly on topics they do not know well about. For example, one of my final pieces is about the mosquito count in Bismarck. I knew nothing of mosquitos, but now I know the different types, how to keep the count lower and that most cities spray without the public knowing.

Beyond the specifics, The Bismarck Tribune has given me experience. Before I entered the doors I had no idea what to expect of a newsroom. Now, I understand how to utilize other reporters skills, how to communicate with an editor and the environment of a newsroom. Experience allows people to find what they enjoy. This internship has given me several topics to write on, which has shown what I prefer to write about and what I do not. Although I am still searching for my specific area, it has allowed me to experience more than before.

After graduating college, I assumed getting a job would be the next step in my career instead I applied for an internship. Working as an intern is a good transition between college life and the “real world.” The Bismarck Tribune has given me more knowledge and contacts within the media field that I will most likely utilize for the remainder of my career.