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Internship Reflection
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For the Spring Semester of 2020, I interned at Cincinnati CityBeat in accordance with the internship requirements of the University of Cincinnati Journalism Department. From January 14 to April 16, my responsibilities at CityBeat varied. Primarily I was tasked with writing blogs, coding slideshows for online publication, fact-checking, and occasional interviews for stories.

Heading into the internship with CityBeat, my main focus was getting comfortable in a newsroom setting and applying the skills I've acquired during my time as a journalism student at UC. I found much of what I already knew applied to CityBeat. For instance, I had a strong grasp on how to structure information properly in a story to where it is most relevant. My editor, Maija Zummo, was also complimentary of my writing ability which I have been continually improving throughout my time at UC. After achieving the security I looked to have within the workplace, I then switched my focus entirely to being the best intern I could be for CityBeat. I felt passionate for the work I was doing and wanted my editors to feel confident in publishing my work.

What I enjoyed most about my time with CityBeat was the absence of pressure. The staff at CityBeat are accommodating and willing to work through any problems I may have encountered regarding structure of a story or coding. There is next to nothing I did not like about my internship. In the first week or so however, I did go through a bit of an adjustment period, as CityBeat is not required to adhere to AP style. After adapting to AP style at UC, it was challenging yet exciting to revert back to my casual writer's voice writing with CityBeat.

As it pertains to CityBeat, I found the workplace much less intimidating than what I had prepared myself for. I learned to ease the pressure off myself and to trust my ability to make blogs and stories appear professional and coherent. Diversity was a non-issue at CityBeat, as it's known they are a very inclusive publication that prides itself on covering the art and culture of all kinds of different communities within the city. I was well informed on the politically correct terms and phrases that are appropriate when referencing certain communities.

My time at CityBeat proved to be extremely beneficial for my journalism experience. I've gained more confidence in my writing, and have improved upon how I phrase information within a story thanks to guidance from Maija and Hailey Bollinger. With their relaxed instruction and easy-going attitudes, I was able to write with the understanding that I could ask for help at any moment, which greatly benefitted my adaptation to CityBeat. I am excited to continue writing for them throughout the summer, and expect to be conducting more interviews, present story ideas, and increase my writing workload. I covet this experience and am certainly indebted to Maija and CityBeat for giving me these opportunities to get my writing out into the community.