

My internship at CityBeat began on MLK day – after that big ass ice storm – and my car got stuck on my way to the office. Luckily, that was by far the low point of my experience so far and after many hurried minutes of trying, and failing, to dig my car out of that icy snow trap, I uber-ed my way to the office to an understanding editor who held nothing against me. Since that day where I began copyediting restaurant information for the upcoming Pet Issue, my responsibilities have only grown. Along with the three weekly intern To Do picks, I've been diligently working on CityBeat Best Of 2019 Picks (both my own proposals and ghostwriting staff picks that I did not propose) and helped the web editor copyedit and create short write ups for slideshows.

In my time at CityBeat, I've honed my skills in blurb writing – particularly food writing; learning how to best describe food in a way that isn't over-the-top, but makes one want to eat it – even if I haven't eaten it myself or even enjoy the food I'm describing. I've also gained a better understanding of how the CityBeat office operates and, by extension, how a professional journalistic institution operates. Even when acknowledging the difference between an alt-weekly and a more traditional outlet, the process of creating a consistently published outlet is clearly one of organized chaos. While I've had no issue with the work I've been given – I'm partial to the arts & culture section – I am excited to progress into more substantive articles.

My work at CityBeat has mostly consisted of making use of my personal humor and writing ability as it relates to understanding the publication's voice, but I've also made use of skills I've learned in UC classrooms. An idea that's been frequently hammered home by my instructors is to not take any bit of information for granted; I've found myself at CityBeat Google map-ing images of restaurant patios to help me find an appropriate descriptive adjective and opening countless tabs to find whether or not a place of business uses an apostrophe in its name.

I consider that this meticulous work has paid off since I've only seen marginal edits to write-ups I've gotten published online and in the print edition. Thanks to ole Len-Pen, I've also learned about the importance of knowing AP style and while I may not have it memorized or have the most up-to-date text, I always make note to look for the AP form of terms such as the season of "Spring" and how to format times.

I've had almost no complaints in my just-over a month on the job and it's not only met, but exceeded my expectations. We have the most adorable office dog – Maggie (she also goes by Marg or Margie) who currently has sparkly pink nails – and a smart, funny, and friendly staff who buckle down and produce great work, but are equally capable of joking about (and burning) mysterious headshots glued under Majja's desk and debating the best-worst talking animal films. My assignments have not only helped me hone my blurb writing skills, but they've opened my eyes to so many interesting, quirky, boozy events Cincinnati has to offer. My partner and I have gotten several date ideas from To Do picks I've been assigned and having to write about an upcoming event without attending it poses a unique writing challenge. I've also gotten more positive feedback from Majja and the rest of the staff than I ever could have imagined; I feel so welcome and appreciated, which is the most one can hope for in an internship.