

# Tracy Simmons

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## Objective

Work for a newspaper where years of experience and passion for journalism, writing and knowledge add value to operations.

## Education

M.A., Communication, Eastern New Mexico University, 2007  
B.A., Print Journalism, Eastern New Mexico University, 2003  
Undergraduate program completed in three years

## Work Experience

2006–Present

Features Writer

Lubbock Avalanche Journal, Lubbock, Texas

Write weekly section cover stories; maintain religion blog; cover education and youth issues for region; enhance presentation of stories with multimedia; research topics of interest and generate creative and interesting story ideas in rural locale; work with photographers and subjects to schedule appropriate photo opportunities

2006–Present

Freelance Writer

XPRT Creative, Portales, NM

Write press releases for specific events and activities as requested

2004–06

Education/Religion Reporter

Victoria Advocate, Victoria, Texas

Covered school board meetings, church news; completed other daily assignments

2003–04

News Writing Instructor

Eastern New Mexico University, Portales, NM

Taught undergraduate students Associated Press Style Guide; maintained grade records; assisted other instructors with classroom activities as needed

Summer 2000, 2003

General Assignment Reporter

The Albuquerque Tribune, Albuquerque, NM

Covered hard and soft news stories; interviewed and researched for daily and weekly articles

2002–2004

General Assignment Reporter/Paginator

The Clovis News Journal, Clovis, NM

Edited text and photos for each page; organized stories and content; paginated newspaper, creating headlines, subheads and nut graphs; interviewed and researched for local events; submitted freelance work to sister newspapers

1999–2003

Editor-in-Chief

Eastern New Mexico University's The Chase, Portales, NM

Assigned stories; managed staff of 10–15 at any given time; wrote stories as needed; paginated the newspaper; distributed the publication to various locations on campus and in the community; edited stories; assigned photographer to specific events; other duties as needed

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## Job Skills

General

Writer; manager; motivator; team builder

Computer/Technical

Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook, Publisher, PowerPoint, Macromedia /Adobe Dreamweaver, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe InDesign, Adobe PageMaker, Quark Express; Audacity sound editing software, Soundslides audio slideshow software, Digital voice recorder, Digital camera.

## Honors/Awards

- Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Media Honor Roll Award winner, Lubbock-Cooper Independent School District, 2007
- Lubbock Avalanche-Journal Editor's Award three-time winner, 2007
- ENMU Outstanding Student in Journalism, 2003
- The Chase Staff Writer of the Year, 2002
- Scripps Howard Lighthouse Award winner, 2000

## Certifications and Professional Development

- Poynter workshop in San Antonio, 2005
- American Press Institute narrative writing workshop, 2006

## Organizations

- Religion Newswriting Association, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007

References Available on Request

“Hard work and perseverance are my best qualities. As a journalist I give my all to every story I write. I don't want to publish an article if it has holes in it.”