

News-academic partnerships: student journalists producing content with or for professional media outlets and/or public consumption. In 2023 alone, there were more than 2k in the U.S.

## **The challenges students face in these programs are only partly academic.**

Students are not just learning on the job how to be exemplary journalism practitioners, they are also learning how to exist in workplaces, talk to strangers, navigate unfamiliar surroundings, act despite inner doubt and do other things that for many reasons have become harder in recent years. And they're not coming to us unburdened ...

- 68% of surveyed students mentioned anxiety in some capacity
  - Lack of experience and knowledge
  - Lack of confidence
  - Fear of sources
  - Time management and overwhelm
  - Peer difficulties

Half of post-COVID Gen Z reports anxiety on daily basis.

## **But they find our programs can help.**

In news-academic partnerships, students build foundational journalism skills and foundational human skills.

- Asked how much better equipped they felt to succeed in a news-academic partnership than in a more typical class, 34 students answered with an 8, 9 or 10 out of 10.
- 80% of students stated they had solidified their desire to be working journalists
- Interacting with strangers
  - 28 students: 10/10
- Navigating unfamiliar surroundings
  - No improvement below 6
- Foundational journalism skills
  - 29 students: 10/10
  - No improvement below 6



## **News-academic partnerships can reach students other classes have failed.**

They felt better able to succeed than in “typical” classes

- 34 students: 8, 9 or 10/10
  - More face time with prof
  - More one-on-one time
  - More personal accountability
  - Different learning styles more easily integrated
  - More flexible learning environment

## **It all hinges on the faculty mentor.**

The ability of the faculty mentor to form positive personal relationships with their students and to facilitate their forming positive relationships with each other is crucial to the learning process. Work-integrated journalism experiences tend to feature smaller numbers of students working longer hours in tighter and more stressful circumstances. Faculty and students get to know each other better, and students come to expect their instructors to be more personally available to them.

- Students expected and desired a personal relationship
- Most-cited positive qualities:
  - Encouraging
  - Patient
  - Tough but fair
  - Allowed student to retain ownership of work
- Negative qualities:
  - Biased
  - Played favorites
  - Angry
  - Intimidating
  - Impatient or derogatory