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Now that my internship is finished, I feel as though I have met all of the course goals and more. I have written over 50 stories for the Warwick Beacon and take pride in all of my work.

I have learned the best way to deal with sources, creating a relationship with them and gathering information from all possible sides. I learned that some people just don't want to cooperate, and you cannot wait around for one particular source when you are on deadline. It's important to have a back up plan when sources can't be reached. In an injection story that I wrote, I really wanted to speak with a nurse who was heavily opposing the injection law being passed. However, she did not want to speak with me, and did not ever return any of my calls. Although I was disappointed, because she would have been a good person to speak with, I moved on and spoke to other nurses.

I learned very quickly that sometimes you need to nag a little bit to get the information you need. Sometimes I had to place numerous calls before I could finally speak with someone. I also learned how to effectively communicate with my co-workers and deal with people in a professional setting.

After completing assignments for the class, I feel that I have put together a credible resume and cover letter, using good format and content. I am confident in my work ethic and personality and feel I will conduct successful interviews with future employers. I am confident that I will be able to hold my own in the workplace and produce good work after graduation.

I also had a very good professional relationship with my publisher and have learned so much from him. He never hesitated to give me constructive criticism and would not put a story through if he was not satisfied with my work or my lead. This taught me how to formulate effective work and use leads that identified the most important information. Sometimes I would attend an event, and the most important aspect of the story would not be that the event itself happened, but maybe the reason that the event was held or opposition to the event. I feel comfortable that I can address problems in the workplace such as harassment or misconduct with others.

I am confident in my job-seeking skills for the future. I've learned that you must set aside a certain amount of time each day or week to look for a job. You should set goals on how many applications to send out, how many interviews to set up, and how many phone calls to place each week in order to find a job you will be happy with.

Before starting my internship, I wished I had known that it's much better to talk to someone in person. When I first started my internship, I would conduct many interviews on the phone. After a few days, I learned that meeting with someone face to face actually produces much more information. People open up much more about things when they are sitting with you.

I found many connections with courses I have taken and my internship. I learned in my feature story class, many ways to form an effective lead, using creativity but keeping it news. My publisher appreciated creativity. In my courses, I learned to form a story beginning with my most

important information and working my way down to the least important. I learned that you should incorporate views from both sides throughout, and use every point of view.

As for advice for students considering an internship at the Beacon, I would say this: Take all the criticism that you can get. Everyone who works there is very helpful, experienced and friendly. Be prepared to work hard and multitask. I was assigned many stories at once, but I learned quickly how to work all angles. Never assume anything.