

Donna Rodriguez

Writer

(865) 555-0188 • Knoxville, TN 12345 • theo.ramsey@example.com

Recent journalism grad with two years of student newsroom work and a part-time freelance practice covering local arts and music. Looking for a staff writer role where I can report two to three stories a week and grow into a beat.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Freelance Writer, Self-employed, Knoxville, TN	2023 – Present
- Published 38 bylined pieces in regional outlets including Smoky Ridge Weekly and East TN Eats, mostly show previews, venue profiles, and album reviews. - Pitch 4 to 6 editors a month and keep a running tracker of open, accepted, and killed ideas. - Turn around 800-word concert reviews within 12 hours of the show ending. - Built a Substack of music notes that grew to about 1,400 subscribers in nine months, mostly through word of mouth at venues.	
Staff Reporter, The Daily Beacon (UT Knoxville), Knoxville, TN	2021 – 2023
- Covered the campus housing beat and broke a story on a maintenance backlog that was picked up by two local TV stations. - Filed 2 stories a week during the academic year, plus weekend event coverage. - Edited incoming copy from first-year reporters on the city desk.	

EDUCATION

- B.S. in Journalism and Electronic Media, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 2023
- Minor in English Literature, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 2023
- Dow Jones News Fund Digital Media Workshop, Summer 2022

KEY SKILLS

- AP Style reporting and editing - Interviewing and source building - Arts and music feature writing - Substack and newsletter publishing - CMS publishing (WordPress) - Social media promotion for bylined work	- Pitch development and editor outreach - Concert and album reviews - Breaking news on tight deadlines - Basic photo and audio capture for stories - Google Docs, Sheets, and editorial trackers - Fact-checking and copy editing
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