Catherine Shackelford

Data Journalism

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Homework

1. I’m Catherine Anne, born (and raised) in the Dallas area. I have two brothers and a sister-in-law who’s one of my dearest friends. I started off at the University of South Carolina, majoring in International Relations. After a few classes, I realized I hated my classes and felt pulled to do something with writing. Most of my English professors told me I had a gift…that I ought to use it sometime. I switched to journalism, eventually transferring to Arkansas for personal reasons. But being at this university changed the way I wrote and my purpose. I’ve rediscovered a passion for people, which is why I want use my writing in a way that transforms and encourages others. Faith is one of the most important things in my life, and I’m trying to merge that with my writing so that I can start a magazine called Wild. Dr. Watkins helped inspire the idea in one of her classes last semester. Ultimately, I hope this hobby can turn into a social gathering where people use their art, photography, writings, and other talents to inspire others in their faith. The other layer behind the magazine is to partner with a safe house and teach trafficked women how to write. They’d eventually have a column in the magazine, so that they can make an income and network with others. You mentioned to include links and images, so there’s a link below to Wild’s website my friend and I started. I’ve interned at my dad’s company, First Liberty. I also went to a journalism “boot camp” this summer where I wrote for the Northwest Iowa Review and filmed my first documentary. I’m open to learning new things. I’m actually most excited about this class in particular because I think it’ll stretch me and spark a new appreciation for numbers and Excel.
2. Is it hard to become a data journalist if you don’t have much experience (at all) with using data? Also, how do we place boundaries on data…and what ways can we assure our conclusions are reliable and trustworthy?

*Link:* [*http://riseuprunfree.com*](http://riseuprunfree.com)