

Contact

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Top Skills

Political Communication
Public Relations
Political Campaigns

Languages

English (Native or Bilingual)
Korean (Elementary)
Spanish (Native or Bilingual)
French (Limited Working)

Israel Iguarate

Deputy Director of Speechwriting at HHS
Washington, District of Columbia, United States

Summary

If I had to describe myself with one word, that word would be vigorous. One can't wait for inspiration, one has to go after it with a club. As a journalist and speechwriter, I've always gone after the story, after the inspiration, and that is what I will continue to do in anything I do.

I excel at creating and bringing projects to fruition. I value efficiency, accuracy, quality, and collaboration. And my favorite part of my work is being in the trenches with my colleagues, telling a good joke, and sharing in the success that may come.

Experience

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Deputy Director of Speechwriting

March 2021 - Present (2 years 6 months)

Washington, District of Columbia, United States

- As the Deputy Director of Speechwriting for HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra, I work with the Director of Speechwriting and other colleagues throughout the Department to write the Secretary's — and other principal's — speeches, remarks, op-eds, and scripts. During my first four months, I served as the acting director of speechwriting, in which time I established the speechwriting process for the whole department and juggled multiple projects on short deadlines.
- Today:
 - o I write 80% of the Secretary's speeches, remarks, and scripts.
Examples: CNN Op-Ed in March 2021, 74th World Health Assembly Speech.
 - o I write 100% of Deputy Secretary Andrea Palm's speeches, remarks, and scripts.

o I coordinate and serve as a liaison between the Scheduling Department, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, the Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs, and the HHS studio team.

o I organize, coordinate, and serve as the primary point of contact for projects and speeches, and ensure their passage through the review process.

o And I have taken the added duties of working with the Online Communications Director to enhance the Department's and the Secretary's image in digital spaces.

- The biggest challenges in this position are dealing with material that can be dense, and working within a system whose default setting is to play it safe. I have been able to push back against these challenges by learning the material and by continuously pushing for more quality and creative work.

California Department of Justice

Executive Speechwriter - Attorney General of California

July 2020 - March 2021 (9 months)

Sacramento, California, United States

- As the Executive Speechwriter for California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, I served as the creative muscle for the communications department at the California Department of Justice and the “voice” of the Attorney General. Whether it was with well-placed humor, or by finding the right simile or metaphor, my job as his Executive Speechwriter was to bring out the best of the AG as an orator in a way that is persuasive and easy to understand to the targeted audience.

Specifically:

- I wrote the Attorney General's remarks, speeches, scripts, and pretty much all the scripted material that the AG delivers to outside audiences.

o I did this by collaborating with the press officers on the messaging, by conducting my own research, and by guiding the material through the review process.

- I collaborated with colleagues to prepare the memos that the AG received prior to any event/press conference that he participated in.

- I wrote internal DOJ scripts for a variety of projects for a variety of departments of the DOJ. For example, an employee welcome video for the Office of Professional Development, a Social Distancing video for Health and Safety, and the Weekly Wrap, which was a biweekly scripted news report on the department's accomplishments.

- I copy edited a myriad of material; from the Press Releases, to employee questions at the DOJ's townhalls, to the closed captioning on videos.

NHK, Japan Broadcasting Corporation

Writer - Producer

August 2017 - July 2020 (3 years)

Santa Monica

As a producer for NHK, I am involved with almost every aspect of the story telling process. I research and pitch new and innovative segments, liaison with sources and participants, and oversee their filming in the field. I also write for NHK World.

My complete duties and responsibilities are as follows:

- I contribute editorially to the structure of the segments.
- I conduct interviews in English and Spanish.
- I conduct all preparations (research, negotiations, initial interviews) ahead of a field assignments.
- I oversee and manage the field team and the production schedule domestically and internationally.
- I travel throughout North America, at least three times a month for feature segments, breaking news, conferences, conventions, and political campaigns.
- On occasion, I appear on NHK World as a correspondent and provide voice overs.

Asahi Shimbun

News Producer

February 2015 - July 2017 (2 years 6 months)

Greater Los Angeles Area

As News Producer/Reporter, I briefed, analyzed, pitched, and I executed stories relating to Central America, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Japan. I also dealt with the following:

- o The logistical planning of field assignments across North America by conducting research, communicating with sources, planning the schedule, and information gathering.
- o Contributed editorially to stories ranging from a Chinese canal in Nicaragua to the San Bernardino terrorist attack.
- o Coordinated information gathering with a team of reporters on several field assignments.
- o I wrote briefs and briefed the bureau chief on ongoing stories and developments, such as the US-Cuba rapprochement, the 2016 elections, and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's
- o Participated in State Department Conference calls regarding the US-Cuba negotiations.

Topics that I covered included:

- Nuclear Downwinders
- Immigration/border issues
- Nicaragua's transoceanic canal
- Mass shootings/School Shootings • San Bernardino Terrorist Attack
- Comfort Woman Issue
- 2016 Republican Primaries

Dankook University
Global Village Summer Program Intern
June 2014 - August 2014 (3 months)
Jukjeon, South Korea

The Global Village summer program is designed to simulate an English immersion environment for DKU students. As a native English speaking intern, I taught and lead small groups of DKU students in English conversation sessions daily. This opportunity allowed interns to achieve personal gains through understanding the dynamics involved in teaching, management, lesson plans and interacting with other students.

Responsibilities & Achievements

- I developed lesson plans by first identifying the teaching objectives of the course, and by then conducting research on varying subject matters. I implemented the lesson plan by creating Powerpoint presentations and handouts. I also, wrote, shot, and edited the program's video yearbook using digital editing software.

Other responsibilities included:

- Identifying clear teaching objectives and specifying how they would be taught and assessed;
- Setting tasks which challenged students and ensured high levels of interest;
- Setting clear targets and building on prior attainment;
- Providing clear structures for lessons maintaining pace, motivation and challenge;
- Developing and implementing lesson plan.
- Ensuring effective teaching and best use of available time;

Office of Student Research - CSUSB

Graduate Assistant

February 2014 - July 2014 (6 months)

San Bernardino, California

Responsibilities & Achievements:

- As a graduate assistant at CSUSB's Office of Student Research, I conducted research for the purposes of the development of programs aimed at increasing retention and achievement among high risk students. I wrote proposals and briefed extensively, based on this research, on how to proceed with the establishment or continued implementation of said programs. I also, developed and implemented the marketing strategy for the OSR Symposium event and OSR Journal. Finally, I conducted presentations about OSR programs and events.

Other responsibilities and projects:

- Researched and wrote a proposal for a merit based research awarding system.
- Researched and wrote job posting for a statistics specialist.
- Supervised volunteers during OSR events.
- Drafted emails and proofread documentation.
- Input survey data into SPSS
- Assisted in putting together a grant proposal for the development of a graduate curriculum composed of high impact practices.

Global Animal Foundation

Editorial, Social Media, and Development Intern

October 2013 - June 2014 (9 months)

Santa Monica, California

Global Animal is an online news magazine and social community. It's a virtual clubhouse for animal advocates worldwide to stay informed, be moved, be heard, and get involved.

Responsibilities & Achievements:

- In this role I developed funding, marketing, and outreach strategies by conducting in-depth research, by analyzing similar organizations and their strategies, and by creating relevant case studies. I provided weekly briefs on this work. I also researched grant opportunities as well as tapped online funding opportunities, through networking, research, and by using structured analytical techniques. Finally, I wrote and edited content for foundation website and helped with the management of the foundations social media accounts.

Education

California State University-San Bernardino

Master of Arts (MA), National Security Policy Studies · (2012 - 2014)

L'Alliance Francaise de Los Angeles

French · (2017 - 2017)

California State University-San Bernardino

Bachelor of Arts (BA), Mass Communication/Media Studies · (2005 - 2010)

California State University-San Bernardino

Bachelor of Arts (BA), Political Science and Government · (2005 - 2010)