

Greeting from Managing Editor Mike Marcotte:

Hi N-Gen Mentors & Participants!

As managing editor, my job will be to focus on the journalism in this training project.

As reporter, your job will be to seek, find and tell meaningful stories.

Doug has already given you the deadline for finishing your work: Friday, Oct 31st.

I want to give you a deadline for having your story idea vetted and approved: Friday, Oct 24th. But see my interim deadline below!

This means participants and mentors need to be answering these key questions as soon as possible:

1. Who is/are the central character/s in my story?
2. What action is/are my character/s doing?
3. What timeframe/s and location/s am I working with?
4. What is the tension or drama in my story?
5. Why is this story *\*necessary\** to tell?

Mentors may ask other questions to draw out the intentions of participants. But if you can answer these primary questions for me, you will be well along your way to a focused story.

I realize many story ideas start not with a person in mind, but a concept or a trend or an event. That's fine but it won't be a good radio story until it becomes about someone, doing something.

I can't stress enough that our work in Kansas City depends heavily on how clearly we articulate our story focus in advance. My advice: keep it simple!

Mentors/Participants: ~~please send me your "focus statements" (answering these questions) by end of next week,~~ POST TO GOOGLE DOC YOUR FOCUS STATEMENTS BY Friday, Oct 17. This gives us a week to discuss and refine before we arrive!

Thanks! I look forward to a great experience!

Mike Marcotte (pronounced mar-cot)

P.S. Quick word about me: I have 28 years of newsroom experience, 21 as news director. I have taught journalism at three universities and am currently a national trainer for PRNDI. My approach is collegial and collaborative. I'm especially interested in having reporters find authentic people and situations, report on them up close, and in so doing illuminate greater truth.