AI tools for journalists

Useful assistance. Human reporting and judgment.



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David Cutler

Adviser, The Gator · Founder, PSJA

Begin with the newsroom’s policy

Protect original work

Students report, write, create original artwork, and make editorial decisions. A tool cannot take responsibility for a publication.

Check before uploading

Follow your school’s rules for recordings, consent, source information, and third-party services.

Our distinction at The Gator

AI can help with website code. Our original journalism and artwork belong to students.

Your editorial question

What does this tool improve for readers, and what must a human verify?

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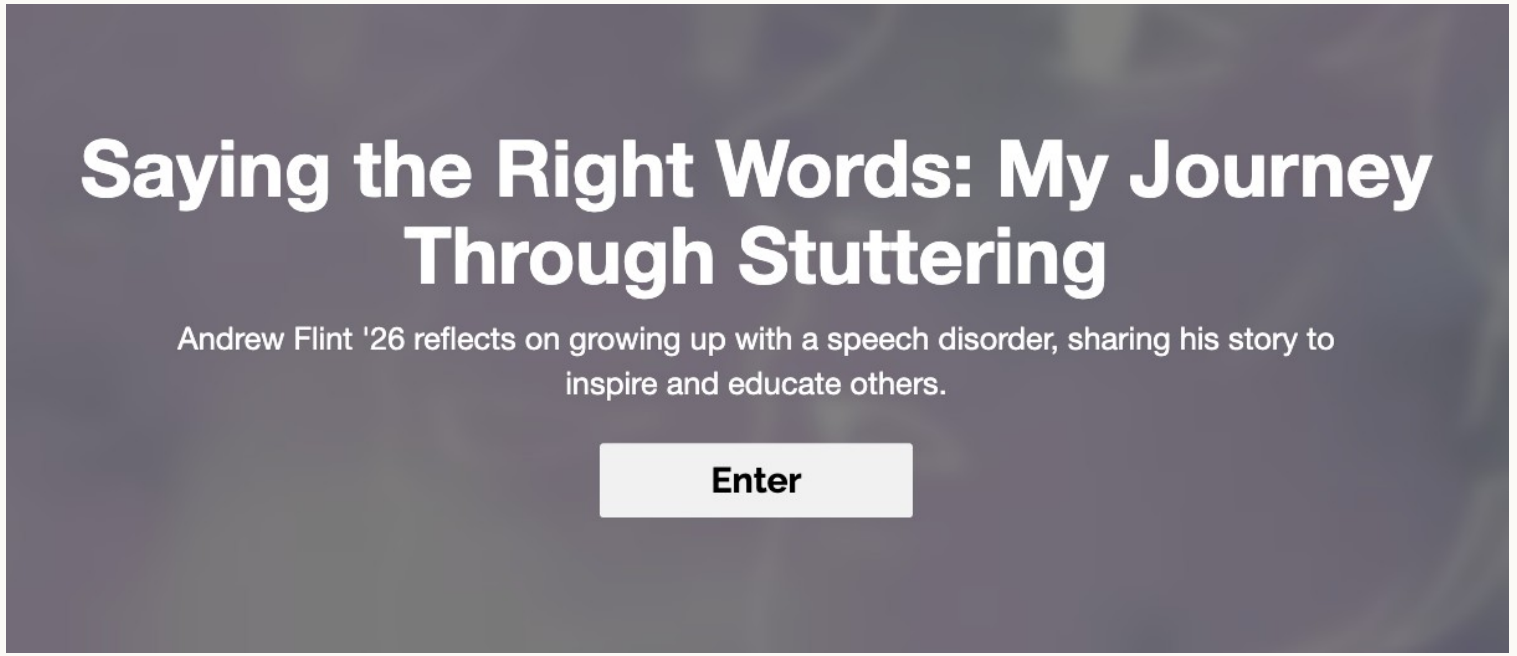
Make stories easier to access

Audio and translation

Read-aloud audio and translation can offer additional ways into a story.

Review the output

Check pronunciation, names, meaning, and the placement of the original text. Invite feedback from actual users.



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The Gator · “Saying the Right Words”

Slides & resource links ↗

Treat transcription as a first pass

Save time with a searchable draft

Compare TurboScribe and Otter.
Plans and limits change; use the provider's current information.

Return to the recording

Check every quotation against the audio.
Correct names, speaker labels, punctuation, and missing context.

TurboScribe

turboscribe.ai

Otter

otter.ai

Staff routine

The writer checks quotations; an editor verifies the important passages.

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Slides & resource links ↗

Audio still needs reporting

A format is not a story

Use an interview, a scene, or a clear narrative purpose. Do not publish a transcript simply because it exists.

Give listeners context

Name speakers, identify recording dates, provide credits, and offer a text alternative.



Hadestown rehearsal · Photograph by David Cutler

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Slides & resource links ↗

Use video tools with an editor’s eye

VEED

A browser editor can help assemble clips and captions. Review the finished sequence as carefully as written copy.

Before publication

Correct captions, check permissions and music, preserve context, and identify the people speaking.

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Keep voices and identities authentic

Synthetic voices and avatars

An audience should know when a voice or image is synthetic. Do not imitate a real person without their permission.

Choose the simplest useful format

A real student voice, clear caption, or short reported clip may serve the story better.

Discuss

Would a reader mistake this for a person saying or doing something they never said or did?

Decide first

Write a disclosure and consent rule before the staff experiments.

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Make design serve student work

Canva and similar tools

Build a visual hierarchy around original photographs and accurate information. Templates are a starting point.

Keep it legible

Check contrast, image credit, title length, and the phone-sized version.



Original sports design supplied in the workshop

Open this resource ↗

Slides & resource links ↗

Use movement with a reason

A short visual sequence

A GIF or brief video can draw attention to a result, sequence, or revealing moment.

Make the information available without motion

Provide a clear caption or still alternative. Check playback and avoid distracting repetition.



Source workshop · sports graphic

Open The Gator example ↗

Slides & resource links ↗

Use feedback to prompt revision

Murrow writing coach

Explore the Journalistic Learning Initiative's writing resource as a feedback tool. Students decide what to revise and write the work themselves.

Keep the teacher and editor involved

Ask whether a suggestion is accurate, useful, and consistent with the writer's intention.

Open this resource ↗

Slides & resource links ↗

Protect the photographic record

Documentary images

Do not add, remove, or fabricate people or events. Ordinary editing should preserve what the camera recorded.

Design is a separate use

If a cutout or composite is used for a clearly identified graphic, label it and retain the original.



Original sports photograph supplied in the workshop

Open slides and resources ↗

Test a tool against a real editorial task

01 Choose transcription, captions, audio access, or writing feedback. Use material you are permitted to upload.

02 Compare the output with the original and record errors or omissions.

03 Write a short rule explaining permitted use, review, and disclosure.

WORKING TIME

15 minutes

YOU WILL PRODUCE

One reviewed example and a policy your staff can discuss.

Open slides and resources ↗

Leave with a policy, not a shopping list

Assign responsibility

Name the person who checks accuracy, rights, privacy, accessibility, and disclosure.

Review the policy

Return to it when tools or newsroom needs change. Avoid a policy built around a vendor’s temporary price or feature.

Resources

TurboScribe · Otter · VEED
Canva · Murrow · Picsart

Workshop materials

Editable slides, a PDF, and direct resource links are on the companion page.

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