



JENNIFER CLARE BALL, BSJ, MA

Science Writer and Editor

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Seeking new challenges to leverage a distinguished education and 10+ years of work experience in an array of media, communications, and marketing areas—including business writing, medical editing, marketing coordination and project management, public and media relations, content creation and publishing, social media advertising, diversity and inclusion, magazine storytelling, health care and environment communications, copywriting and copyediting for print and online, and clinical and technical documentation and improvement. Efficient, detail-oriented, and collaborative, I engage in thought leadership both online and in-person and will advocate for lean management, streamlined processes, and the mental and physical well-being of staff members in office culture. Track record of delivering powerful results and excellent-quality content that meets deadlines. Relevant core competencies include a natural aptitude for the sciences, foundational knowledge of statistics and data reporting, and discernment regarding research methods and study design.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Editing per the AMA Manual of Style
- Reference and fact-checking
- Familiar with pharmaceutical advertising regulations
- Cross-functional communication
- Interpersonal relationships and connections
- Foundations of statistics
- Scientific research methods and study designs
- Project management

EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

Master of Arts | Science Writing | Johns Hopkins University | 2019-2022

Accomplishments

- Graduated with 4.0 GPA.
- Managing editor/contributing writer/member of founding student cohort, The Science Writer magazine.
- Participant in Public Health Summer Residency: Health Equity with Deans Melissa Hendricks-Smith and Sam Apple.
- Master's thesis, selected works regarding the Opioid Epidemic and Climate Change, provided on request.

Notable Master's Coursework

- Fundamentals in Science Writing with Tim Wendel, author of the book Cancer Crossing, among others
- Principles of Editing with Jamie Zvirzden, editor, author of Subatomic Writing, and physicist
- Prize Winners Science Writing with Kim O'Connell, freelance magazine writer
- Climate Communication, Olive Heffernan, former chief editor of Nature
- Science Personal Essay in Science Writing with Prof Zvirzden
- Science Narratives Workshop with Prof Apple

Bachelor of Science in Journalism and Minor in Psychology | Northwestern University, Medill School of Media, Journalism, and Integrated Marketing Communications and Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences | 2011-2015

Accomplishments

- Staff writer/assistant city editor for The Daily Northwestern—writing 60+ articles, pitching stories at once-weekly planning meetings, and photographing events.
- Collegiate internships included editorial intern, Evanston Now (Summer 2013) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (Summer 2014); and social media and public relations intern for a local coffee business and startup (2012-2015).
- Journalism residency (Spring 2014) at American Salon magazine in New York City—a publication of Questex Media with the target audience of hair salon business owners.
- Recipient of Undergraduate Research Grant Award for independent study regarding media censorship in Costa Rica— included travel to San José, Costa Rica, and interviews conducted exclusively in Spanish (Fall 2013). The results were published in a campus publication—The Protest, a campus social justice magazine.
- Additional contribution to The Protest—reporting, writing, and photography on NYC museum exhibit about injustices occurring in Venezuela (Spring 2014).
- Contributor to campus environmental magazine, writing about the campus ban on disposable plastic water bottle sales.
- Research coordinator in social psychology for PhD research conducted by Dr Alissa Mrazek, supervised by Dr Jennifer Richeson (Spring 2015).
- Research assistant in Spanish department/bilingual journalism for Professor Rifka Cook.

Notable Coursework

Journalism

- Reporting and Writing with Medill Dean and Professor Charles Whitaker
- Science Journalism with Patti Wolter, former Mother Jones editor and Self magazine contributing writer
- Multimedia Journalism with Jazmyn Beltran, editor at American Bar Association and former on-air reporter at Univision
- Magazine Writing and Storytelling with Josh Karp, book author and magazine writer; I had a notable publication during this course in Spirituality & Health magazine about a Catholic nun who competed in marathons
- Magazine Presentation and Editing with David Abrahamson, former chief editor of Car and Driver magazine
- Bilingual Journalism Storytelling, English and Spanish, with Mei-Ling Hopgood, bilingual author and reporter, and the late Cecilia Vaisman, esteemed audio journalist

Psychology

- Introduction to Psychology with Dr Eli Finkel, romantic partnership and attraction researcher
- Psychology Statistics with Dr J. Michael Bailey, sexuality researcher
- Research Methods in Psychology and Social Psychology with Dr Richeson, racial identity researcher
- Abnormal Psychology with Dr Sara Broaders, learning and communication researcher
- Psychology of Gender with Dr Alice Eagley, gender researcher

Saint Viator High School | 2007-2011

Accomplishments:

- 100.1% Weighted GPA
- Graduated top 10 in senior class with highest honors
- National Honors Society
- National Spanish Honors Society
- Awards in English, Biology, and Mathematics
- Member of student council, recycling club, cheerleading team, and newspaper

Advanced Placement (AP) Coursework:

- AP Physics
- AP Calculus BC
- AP Biology
- AP Comparative Government
- AP English Composition
- AP US History

RECENT WORK EXPERIENCE

Manuscript Editor, Editorial Assistant | American Medical Association | 2020-Present

- Objectives include editing accepted journal articles to conform with JAMA Network policies and the AMA Manual of Style (11th edition), independently and reliably meeting deadlines, communicating cross-functionally with graphics, media relations, directors, VP, chief editors, reviewing editors, and peer reviewers; liaising with MD- and PhD-level authors throughout the editorial process.
- Edited 91 articles (39 major original research articles) for a total of 395 published journal pages in 2022.
- Contributes to managing/editing the following peer-reviewed, high-impact factor specialty journals of the American Medical Association: JAMA Oncology, JAMA Internal Medicine, JAMA Dermatology, JAMA Otolaryngology–Head & Neck Surgery, JAMA Health Forum, and JAMA Network Open.
- Amenable to a wide scope of work for editing a single article, as follows:
 - ensuring conformity to AMA Style
 - editing for clarity and reducing jargon
 - proofreading for spelling and grammar
 - suggesting article titles, incorporating search engine optimization (SEO) keywords
 - querying for IRB approval, informed consent, *P* values, measures of variance, statistical software, reporting guidelines (eg, STROBE or CONSORT), patient demographics, and more, as needed
 - meeting JAMA Network’s guidelines laid out in each journal’s online Instructions for Authors webpages
 - verifying data in the results section
 - editing all components (including the key points, abstract, précis, print title, web title, introduction/methods/results/discussion/conclusions sections, limitations, acknowledgments, conflicts of interest disclosures, references cited, tables and footnotes, figures and captions, visual abstracts.)
- Follows patient permission rules; word count, figure, and table item limits; vector art requirements; and guidelines for particular study designs (eg, cohort study vs randomized clinical trial).
- Typesets the article by styling and exporting proofs via eXtyles software, formatting tables to be aesthetically pleasing.
- Creates tracked changes typescript in Adobe PDF format with AMA Style rules explained in comments to authors, subsequently working with authors and manuscript editing director on changes and facilitating the negotiation of minor style deviations.
- Specializes in these article types: Cancer Chronicles (personal narratives written by people with cancer); editorials, Viewpoints, and invited commentaries (opinion pieces); letters to the editor and letters in reply; tributes to people in medicine who have passed away; published editor's notes; original investigations (3,000-word original research articles); systematic (meta-analyses) and narrative (qualitative) reviews; research letters (600-word original research articles); brief reports (1200-word research articles); case reports; special communications and consensus statements focused on one area of health care quality improvement; patient pages including information for patients and caregivers to learn about their condition; clinical challenges; and formal corrections.
- Trains and mentors new staff members; documents and improves workflows.
- For my medical editing showcase, visit composeandconsult.com/editing.

Founder, Owner, Freelance Writer and Editor | Compose & Consult, LLC | 2012-Present

- Founded Compose & Consult, LLC, a science writing, editing, and consulting small business.
- I write a blog focused on medical writing and editing: composeandconsult.com/the-edit-effect.
- I was hired to write or edit at esteemed science publications on a contract basis.
- I acted as reporter and writer for these selected works (for more, visit composeandconsult.com/writing):

WIRED Science

- [Why Some Ecologists Worry About Rooftop Honey Bee Programs](#)
- [Pandemic Lockdowns Did Cut Air Pollution—but With a Catch](#)
- [The Great Danger of the Tiny Bark Beetle](#)
- [This AI Helps Detect Wildlife Issues In Realtime](#)

Discover Magazine

- [Pollinators Prefer a Dash of Salt in Their Nectar](#)
- [US Wind Energy Is \(Finally\) Venturing Offshore](#) (June/July 2022 print issue cover story)

Medicinal Media

- [Video Gaming for Mental Health](#)

KEY SKILLS

- Interpersonal skills
- Detail-oriented
- Proficient in Microsoft Office
- AMA Style, 11th edition
- Deadline adherence
- Adaptable to change
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)
- Social media
- Email marketing
- Interviewing sources
- Pitching and presenting ideas
- Adobe software
- Business writing
- Medical editing
- Magazine storytelling
- Problem-solving
- Workflow analysis and improvement
- Group collaboration and brainstorming
- Identifying and connecting with sources
- Editorial and marketing project management
- Creative strategy
- Event planning
- Trade show management
- Administrative assistance
- Web content writing and editing
- Routing content for various levels of review
- WordPress
- Social media analytics
- Google Analytics
- Search engine optimization (SEO)
- Inherently professional communication
- Aptitude for science
- Knowledge of fundamental statistics and research methods
- Organization
- Prioritization
- Creative writing
- In-depth research
- Excellent reading comprehension
- Critical thinking
- Public and media relations
- Writing and distributing press releases

OTHER RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Marketing Coordinator - Web & Analytics, Project Manager | National Association of Boards of Pharmacy | 2017-2020

- Implemented marketing plans and solutions to ultimately further NABP's mission to protect public health by providing programs and services to the boards of pharmacy.
- Moved projects through a multilevel approval process, ensuring the marketing team met deadlines.
- Executed project manager responsibilities for website redesign.
- Wrote and edited copy for both print and online materials.

Clinical Documents Specialist | Horizon Pharma | Summer 2015

- Organized and archived the trial master file.
- Communicated cross-functionally across departments.
- Created a clinical trial protocol template.

INTERESTS AND HOBBIES

- Traveling—notable international travels include Argentina, Costa Rica, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, and the Netherlands.
- Volunteering for professional organizations as a peer mentor, science editor, social and email writer, and equity editor.
- Devouring suspense and detective novels—favorite authors include Agatha Christie and Liane Moriarty.
- Running—notable races include Big10K, Color Run, Hot Chocolate 5K, and Turkey Trot.
- My Maine Coon cat—a lean 22-pound feline named after King Louis XIV of France.
- Northwestern University and Purdue University football and basketball.

Additional experience, writing and editing samples, and recommendations furnished on request or by visiting my LinkedIn profile, [linkedin.com/in/jennifercball](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jennifercball).