

THOMAS A. TAYLOR

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Newsroom editor with more than 25 years of experience writing headlines and display type, editing wire and staff content, and applying style standards under daily deadline pressure. At USA TODAY, wrote more than 25,000 headlines, including roughly 5,000 for the front page, and chaired the USA TODAY Network Style Committee, giving unusually deep command of the Network Style Guide this role requires. Worked daily in the CUE content management system after its adoption, having previously served as a designated superuser of its precursor Newsgate system. Comfortable working with minimal supervision, making independent calls on headline emphasis, play and trims within page designs built by others, and moving fluidly between page editing and wire editing functions.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Headline & Display Type Writing • Wire & Staff Content Editing • CUE System Proficiency • Network Style Application • Independent Editorial Decision-Making • Story Trims & Page Fit • Proofreading & Error Correction • Page & Wire Editing Versatility • Peer Mentoring & Coaching • Adapting Local Content for National Audiences

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Chairman, USA TODAY Network Style Committee

08/2024 – 09/2026

USA TODAY — McLean, VA

- Governed and continually updated the USA TODAY Network Style Guide used by editors and designers across dozens of partner papers — the same style standard applied to headlines, breakouts and captions Network-wide.
- Served as the Network's primary point of contact for style questions, giving day-to-day rulings on tone, fairness and usage for editors and designers across the Network.

Copy Editor

10/2000 – 09/2026

USA TODAY — McLean, VA

- Wrote more than 25,000 headlines over the course of the role, including roughly 5,000 front-page headlines — deep, high-volume command of headline writing and other display type under daily deadline pressure.
- Edited wire and staff content within page designs built in CUE, adhering to the designer's specifications while applying news judgment to content originally produced locally and adapted for a national audience.
- Worked daily in the CUE content management system from its adoption at USA TODAY; previously a designated superuser of CUE's precursor Newsgate system.
- Edited national and international news, feature and business content for print and digital, enforcing accuracy, fairness and Network style standards on deadline.
- Proofread display type and tracked jumps, correcting errors in own work and the work of others, and flagged unclear writing for improvement rather than just fixing it in place.
- Moved between page editing and wire editing functions as daily workload required, and coached teammates making that same transition.
- Identified recurring error patterns and workflow inefficiencies and work directly with reporters and editors to fix them at the source, reducing repeat mistakes across the News, Life and Money teams.

Slot Editor (News Slot)

01/2016 – 02/2022

- Served as final edit on all News section content through multiple daily editions, resolving concerns and making decisions on stories independently under tight, fast-moving deadline windows.
- Made high-stakes editorial and play decisions during late-night production windows after the paper was put to bed, working with minimal supervision to handle breaking news across print and digital.

News Editor

The Herald-Dispatch — Huntington, WV

- Designed pages and edited copy for a 32-page daily local print edition, trimming and packaging content to fit designated space on deadline.
- Determined story play and news value at daily budget meetings, balancing local and national coverage priorities.

- Handled staff scheduling and performance management for a team of 7-9 designer/editors, while also working the desk alongside them.
- Helped launch herald-dispatch.com, an early digital-to-print coordination effort, and planned expanded coverage for major special events.

Professor

Buryat State University — Ulan-Ude, Russia

- Taught four upper-level courses in English Composition and Mass Communications.
- Taught Introduction to the U.S. Constitution to law school students, working with a translator — experience that sharpened clear, cross-cultural communication skills.

Copy Editor

The Cincinnati Enquirer — Cincinnati, OH

- Edited local, state, national and international news, feature and business stories under daily deadline pressure.
- Helped launch four zoned editions of the paper and designed pages for news, business and features sections.
- Oversaw production of the paper at the printing facility, coordinating between editorial and press operations.

HONORS & RECOGNITION

- Dow Jones Newspaper Fund Intern (1989) — selected for this competitive, national journalism fellowship program.
- USA TODAY Enterprise All-Star, Enriching Enterprise (2003) — recognized for creating and maintaining USA TODAY's database of Saddam Hussein regime members named "most wanted" by U.S. Central Command, which appeared on the military's deck of playing cards during the Iraq War. The only copy editor ever named a USA TODAY Enterprise All-Star.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts, Journalism (Minor: Political Science) — Marshall University, Huntington, WV