

THOMAS A. TAYLOR

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Newsroom leader with more than 25 years of journalism experience across print and digital platforms, including 25+ years at USA TODAY, where he chaired the USA TODAY Network Style Committee and led the team responsible for development of the greatest part of the Network Style Guide used across partner papers. Skilled at coaching and mentoring editors and reporters one-on-one, serving as a key liaison between the newsroom and design/production teams, and making independent editorial decisions under tight deadlines. Recognized by managers as his team's strongest communicator and teacher, with a consistent record of improving workflow efficiency and reducing repeat errors across teams. Former university-level instructor with strong communication and coaching skills.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Team Leadership & Mentoring • Style Guide Development & Governance • Print & Digital Production Workflow • Deadline & Budget Management • Copy Editing & Headline Writing • Cross-Site & Cross-Team Collaboration • Digital-to-Print Coordination • Independent Editorial Decision-Making

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Chairman, USA TODAY Network Style Committee

08/2024 – 09/2026

USA TODAY — McLean, VA

- Led the Network-wide style committee, governing and continually updating the USA TODAY Network Style Guide used by editors and designers across dozens of partner papers.
- Served as the Network's primary point of contact for style questions, overseeing a Teams channel where editors and designers Network-wide bring day-to-day style and standards questions.
- Directed a team that was instrumental in building the current USA TODAY Network Style Guide from the ground up, then trained on and rolled it out Network-wide.

Copy Editor

10/2000 – 09/2026

USA TODAY — McLean, VA

- Edited national, international and local news, feature and business content for print and digital, enforcing accuracy, fairness and legal/ethical standards on deadline.
- 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 under daily deadline pressure.
- Coached and mentored copy editors and reporters one-on-one on workflow and quality standards; recognized as the team's top communicator, gatekeeper and teacher in a 2021 performance review.
- 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.
- Proactively edited advance Life, Money and News content ahead of deadline to reduce next-day workload for the wider team.

Slot Editor (News Slot)

01/2016 – 02/2022

- Served as final edit on all News section content through multiple daily editions, handling the section's editing and production from start to finish under tight, fast-moving deadline windows.
- Made independent, high-stakes editorial and play decisions during late-night production windows after the paper was put to bed, handling breaking news across print and digital with no direct supervision.
- Served as key liaison between the newsroom and the design/production studio, fielding style and process questions from other editors and resolving production issues in real time.

News Editor

The Herald-Dispatch — Huntington, WV

- Managed all page design and copy editing for a 32-page daily local print edition, overseeing production budgeting and content flow on deadline.

- Handled staff scheduling and performance management for a team of 7-9 designer/editors — writing performance reviews, scheduling vacations and shift coverage, and resolving personnel issues.
- Participated in daily budget meetings to set news and feature page lineups, balancing local and national coverage priorities.
- 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