Ms. Neason
is the best
teacher in the whole
world!
Teacher → education reporter

*What do teachers do that journalists also do?

- Ask a lot of questions!
- Teachers get coached, journalists get edited
- Both seek to learn, and then to educate
Getting access

- Show up: school board meetings, sporting events, open houses, science fairs. Make your face known.

- Be hyper-specific when you can, and be honest about the framing of your story

- Clearly frame your visit as one rooted in a desire to understand and explain

- Get parents or teachers invested first, if possible
Once you’re in

- Ask the teacher if you should introduce yourself to the kids

- Don’t leave when the kids leave: talk to the teacher before and after a classroom visit, especially if you only have one day

- Time permitting, watch the same lesson two or three times. Take note of the adjustments teachers make between periods, and ask them to explain why they made the changes

- Keep in mind what it feels like when you meet someone who misunderstands the journalistic process

- Spend as much time as possible with teachers outside of school, even if it feels irrelevant to the story
**More Tips**

- Ask to sit in on lesson planning sessions
- Attend a teacher training
- Talk to parents/kids in the class before you go, and after. Ask them what works for them and what doesn’t. Then, ask the teacher the same thing.
- Go where the kids go