

FREEPRESS 101:

How do reporters gather and use quotes?

During an interview — be it via phone, videocall, or in-person, reporters typically take notes and record their conversations to ensure accuracy when they are representing sources in their stories.

“Quotations can be powerful in conveying an interviewee’s perspective, language and emotion in a story. At the same time, a reporter may paraphrase a source’s comments in order to condense and simplify a lengthy quote.”

When a reporter uses a direct quote, they usually exclude ‘ums’ in order to provide clarity to the reader.



Maggie Macintosh
Education reporter.

Maggie Macintosh got her start in journalism delivering newspapers door-to-door with a wagon she wheeled around her Hamilton, Ont. neighbourhood.

A decade later, in December 2017, she stepped into the Winnipeg Free Press newsroom. That’s when she got her first front-page story in a daily newspaper, frostbite and, fairly quickly, fell for Winnipeg — a city just as gritty and underestimated as the one she’s from.

Maggie is a bilingual English/French graduate of the School of Journalism at Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson University). She appreciates alliteration and tips on anything education-related.