IRE Investigative Reporters & Editors

Data journalism bootcamp | September 18 - 21, 2023
🕐All times CT 🕐
Contact the IRE training team: training@ire.org

This four day online mini bootcamp will focus on building foundational data skills. You'll learn about some best practices for data analysis and get practice working with data in common newsroom scenarios. (Specifically, we'll work in Google Sheets)

Day 1 (Monday, Sept 18)

11 - 11:45 a.m. | Introduction to bootcamp & data journalism
A quick overview of data journalism: History, concepts, tools and examples.

11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. | Hello, Google Sheets!
Introduction to spreadsheets: How to navigate spreadsheets, use formulas and sort to find information quickly

12:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Break

1 - 2 p.m. | Finding answers in your data
More formulas, plus some practice filtering your data to extract subsets.

Day 2 (Tuesday, Sept 19)

11 - 11:30 p.m. | Rates and ratios
Calculating, and communicating, how frequently something happens within a population.

11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. | Grouping your data with pivot tables
An introduction to the powerful, versatile pivot table — useful any time you need to put your data into groups and then compare those groups.

12:45 - 1 p.m. | Break

1 - 2 p.m. | Group exercise

Day 3 (Wednesday, Sept 20)

11 - 11:45 a.m. | How to find and negotiate for data

We'll share techniques to hone your research and public records skills.

11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.| Advanced pivot tables

We'll introduce crosstabs and filters in pivot tables to help you dig even deeper into your data.

12:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Break

1 - 2 p.m. | Importing data

What kind of data files will you on the job? How do you get 'em into a spreadsheet program? (With a special emphasis on tools like Tabula for ripping tables out of PDF files.)

Day 4 (Thursday, Sept 21)

11 a.m. - 12 p.m. | Cleaning and reshaping data

Most spreadsheets you'll find in the wild are not pristine, properly formatted data sets -- they need some wrangling before you can start asking them useful questions. In this session, we'll use some new functions to clean and reshape dirty data.

12 - 12:15 p.m. | Break

12:15 - 2 p.m. | Group exercise