

# Jacob Klopfenstein

City Planner | Journalist | Writer

---

260-710-7718

jacob.klopfenstein@gmail.com

## Education

### **Master of City and Metropolitan Planning**

University of Utah

August 2021 - present

Spring 2023 graduation

### **Bachelor of Arts - Journalism**

Indiana University Bloomington

August 2010 - May 2014

## Introduction

While working as a journalist, I embedded myself in communities in Indiana, Colorado and Utah and discovered the challenges many cities face. That experience, along with a lifelong fascination with geography, led me to shift careers and study urban planning. I'm pursuing positions that allow me to create better futures for marginalized populations in urban areas.

## Experience

### **Consultant and Researcher**

Southeast Utah Association of Local Governments

Price, Utah, August 2022 - present

- Researched active transportation and economic development improvement strategies to rebrand Price as a walkable, bikeable college town and improve the downtown district
- Designed and ran survey to over 200 respondents to gain information about student behaviors
- Conducted in-depth interviews with 15 stakeholders and analyzed data to provide project context
- Recommended implementation strategies as part of graduate capstone project

### **Freelance Writer**

Salt Lake City, Utah, May 2022 - present

- Wrote stories on transportation, new development, parking and other planning policy issues for planning and real estate development website Building Salt Lake
- Reported in-depth stories on wildlife and environment issues for Great Salt Lake Collaborative

### **Teaching and Graduate Assistant, Dept. of City and Metropolitan Planning**

University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, January 2022 - present

- Assisted instructor with grading, student support and course design
- Advised and mentored 30 students with multimedia projects on urban ecology research
- Managed and posted on department Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn accounts
- Wrote 15-20 stories for annual department newsletter highlighting student achievements

### **Writer and News Reporter**

KSL.com, Salt Lake City, Utah, July 2017 - December 2021

- Led breaking news coverage, including identifying, reporting and writing an average of 3-5 stories per day on major events throughout Utah
- Highlighted community issues through reporting on government, environment, education, social justice, crime and other relevant topics
- Fostered relationships and coordinated across local newsrooms to gain information
- Managed and mentored 5 freelancers and edited stories for entertainment news section
- Won multiple awards for news coverage from Utah journalism organizations
- Gained over 121 million page views on stories written over 4.5 years

### **News Reporter**

The Journal Newspaper, Cortez, Colorado, March 2016 - June 2017

- Covered news stories on government, education, health, crime and entertainment

### **News Reporter**

The Star Newspaper, Auburn, Indiana, August 2014 - February 2016

- Reported community news stories on various topics including local government
- Assisted in other duties including page design, photography and copy editing