

Jacob Klopfenstein

City Planner | Journalist | Writer

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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.

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

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