

Investigative Reporters & Editors

Data Journalism Bootcamp



Online Bootcamp Schedule (tentative)

Note: All times Central U.S. time zone

Pre-bootcamp materials

You will receive access to these videos and tipsheets about two weeks before bootcamp to help you get set up for success.

- Setting up your computer and seminar logistics
- Introduction to data journalism
- Navigating spreadsheets
- Overview of concepts, and terms we will learn during bootcamp

Day 1 (Monday, Aug. 3)

9 - 10 am	Introductions and welcome
10 - 10:15 am	Break
10:15 a.m. - Noon	Introduction to spreadsheets: How to navigate spreadsheets, use formulas and sort to find information quickly
Noon - 1:30 pm	Lunch on your own
1:30 - 2 pm	Rates & ratios
2 - 3:30 pm	Spreadsheet exercises: Using filters and pivot tables to analyze data quickly.
3:30 - 3:45 pm	Break
3:45 - 5 pm	Advanced pivot tables
5:15 - 7 pm	Optional open lab

Day 2 (Tuesday, Aug. 4)

9 - 10:30 am	How to find and negotiate for data
10:30 - 10:45 am	Break

10:45 - noon	Getting data into spreadsheets: Importing text files, converting pdfs, Google Sheets scraping
Noon - 1:30 pm	Lunch on your own
1:30 - 3 pm	Excel group exercise
3 - 3:15 pm	Break
3:15 - 5 pm	Excel cleaning & reformatting
5:15 - 7 pm	Optional open lab

Day 3 (Monday, Aug. 10)

9 - 10 am	Intro to SQL: The basics of writing a Structured Query Language query. Getting used to DB Browser
10 - 10:15 am	Break
10:15 am - noon	Using database managers for stories: Importing into DB Browser. Learn to filter large datasets using exact and wildcard matches.
Noon - 1:30 pm	Lunch on your own
1:30 - 3:30 pm	Database exercises: More practice filtering and using aggregate functions in SQL.
3:30 - 3:45 pm	Break
3:45 - 5 pm	SQL group exercise
5:15 - 7 pm	Optional open lab

Day 4 (Tuesday, Aug. 11)

9 - 10 am	SQL review
10 - 10:15 am	Break
10:15 - noon	SQL joins: Connecting two relational tables using a SQL query.
Noon - 1:30 pm	Lunch on your own
130 - 2 pm	Stories to do when you get home
2 - 3:15 pm	Group exercise: Finding stories in campaign finance data.
3:15 - 3:30 pm	Break
3:30 - 5 pm	Enterprise joins: Finding matches in two databases that weren't made to go together.
5:15 - 7 pm	Optional open lab

Day 5 (Wednesday, Aug. 12)

9 - 10 am	Bulletproofing your work: How to make sure your data project is solid from start to finish.
10 - 10:15 am	Break
10:15 - 11:15 am	Building your own database: The best practices and pitfalls to avoid when building your own dataset.
11:15 - noonish	Review, data tools demos, graduation & taking it all home