



[Ann Morgan](#)

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Lorna on Ann: Here's what some students think is enough to get them into journalism: sloppy work that hasn't even been spell-checked, lack of real interest in the media, adolescent demands for praise and higher grades, excuses for not delivering work, refusal to write for specific publications or formats ('But I have my own style'), reluctance to have a focus for their blog ('But I have my own style'), and indignation at being asked to write a local story ('I'd be really good if I was in a war zone').

And then along comes Ann. A total pro.

Ann arrived with an ace track record that was no surprise given her high standards. Some people spend too much time asking 'how to' questions, and then there's Ann, who spends all of her time doing and striving to be better. I never felt I was marking Ann's work, and it was very exciting to be having a first look. Whether blogging or writing features, Ann writes to be read.

Ann on Lorna: Having freelanced for three years for clients such as the Guardian and Tatler and reached the final of a national journalism competition, I decided to do a postgraduate diploma at the London School of Journalism to consolidate my skills and knowledge.

My tutorials with Lorna were one of the most useful aspects of the course. As a freelancer you rarely get people taking the time to invest in your skills and knowledge, so it was great to have an experienced journalist who I could take my work to and who would discuss it with me.

Lorna was supportive and warm without being afraid to tell it to me straight. Knowing that she was waiting for my copy every few weeks made me go out and pursue stories I would not have had the guts to tackle otherwise. I pitched several of these successfully to outlets I hadn't written for before, including the Guardian's Sustainable Business site and the New Internationalist.

Lorna's feedback also made me more confident dealing with the writers I commission and helped me to sharpen my sense of the options available for structuring features. It increased my confidence in my own abilities.

After finishing the course, I embarked on a project to read and blog about [a book from every country in the world in a year](#). I would never have taken on such an ambitious project if it hadn't been for the course and the increased self-belief Lorna helped me develop.