

## Train "humanities writers" (similar to "science writers") for media, GLAM, publishing, funding, and higher-ed organizations.

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### *Audience for this recommendation:*

Funding agencies & foundations; University humanities centers; Humanities councils

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Science writing is an established profession. The [National Association of Science Writers](#), for example, represents "a community of journalists, authors, editors, producers, public information officers, students and people who write and produce material intended to inform the public about science, health, engineering, and technology" ("[About](#)").

No similar organized profession or training pipeline exists for "humanities writers." Media organizations, the GLAM sector (galleries, libraries, archives, museums), publishers, funding agencies and foundations, and higher education institutions *do* in fact employ communicators about the humanities. But typically they do not break out separately the "humanities writing" functions of these jobs as a professional role requiring training and experience on top of a humanities degree.

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### **Try this:**

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Create a training track and a professional community for "humanities writers" through steps such as the following:

- Funding agencies and foundations could sponsor summer institutes, programs, and fellowships (organized by humanities centers) that train humanities writers--e.g., through graduate courses and Ph.D. emphasis programs in public communications for the humanities. Such initiatives would emphasize skills such as writing press and media releases; working

with researchers to communicate humanities scholarship to general audiences; and reporting through podcasts, blogs, and social media on humanities-related events and activities.

- State humanities councils (e.g., through the U.S. [Federation of State Humanities Councils](#)) could collaborate to start a professional association or network of humanities writers.
- Humanities centers could organize workshops that bring together science writers, humanities writers, and journalism editors to share perspectives.



Creating a training track and professional community for humanities writers would help raise the profile of the humanities in society as more than "just academic." (See our [KF-5-2](#) and [KF-5-7](#) findings on how the media tends to silo the humanities in the academy by contrast with its coverage of the sciences.). Experienced humanities writers analogous to science writers would communicate humanities discoveries and trends in a wider range of public contexts.

#### **Resources**

**Research backing up this recommendation:** [KF 5-2](#), [KF-5-3](#).

**Related materials:** WE1S Bibliography on [Public Humanities](#)