

SAM-OMAR HALL

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JOURNALISM & GOVERNMENT

NEWSELA

present

Newsela.com is an educational start-up that uses the daily news to improve students' reading comprehension and literacy skills.

I'm a top **contributing editor** at Newsela, where I **transform news articles**, editing them into simplified versions for different grade levels. I tear down stories, look at the component parts and build them up again in new ways.

Recently, I was part of a small team that adapted the eon-spanning **Big History** curriculum for the **Bill Gates Foundation**.

The Daily Cardinal

'03-'07

Working at The Daily Cardinal was my true education as a journalist and a person. The Cardinal is a renowned student newspaper with a long and proud tradition.

As a **city and campus reporter** I learned the fundamentals: journalistic style, interviewing, writing hard news on deadline. I was tenacious, accurate and fast.

As **state editor**, I immersed myself in state politics, often walking to the nearby Capitol building. I recruited and trained writers, running my desk efficiently.

As **editor-in-chief**, I spent 60 to 70 hours a week at the paper, overseeing all aspects of production and leading a staff of over 200. Spending all my time in the newsroom with other young journalists, making a paper — it was magical.

- After graduating from UW-Madison, I was a city-news intern at the **Wisconsin State Journal**, where I published a handful of stories.
- Later, I worked at the **Legislative Reference Bureau**, the Wisconsin State Legislature's library. I became an expert on the bill-drafting process and researching historical state laws.

TEACHING

- I left Wisconsin for Morocco. In Fes, I **taught English** for 2.5 years at a respected language center.

Both my parents were teachers, so I guess it's in my blood. I loved teaching in Morocco. Having great students was part of it. It was really thrilling to watch them learn and improve over time. I kept my class fast-paced and fun, with games, songs, grammar, and lots of speaking time for everyone.

- In 2013, I **taught English in Taoyuan, Taiwan**, working alongside Taiwanese co-teachers. I also spent the year learning Mandarin Chinese, which is tough!

EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin Madison



- Editor-in-chief
The Daily Cardinal
- B.A., journalism
2007

PERSONAL SKILLS

- Cool under pressure
- Fast learner
- Friendly people-person
- Quick and clean writer
- Fast, accurate reader / editor

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Journalistic style
- Clear writing
- Photography
- CMS, posting online
- Adobe InDesign, Photoshop
- Experience in audio, video

HOBBIES

- Gardening
- Reading for pleasure
- Traveling
- Jogging, yoga
- Meditation