**Panel Directions**

To: Guest panelists

From: Dr. Julie Dodd

RE: Being a panelist in JOU 3109 on (date)

Thanks so much for agreeing to be on the panel to talk with the students in Multimedia Writing (JOU 3109). Hearing from you will be so helpful for the students!

When you speak in class, the students will be developing story pitches and starting on their own reporting for their environmental, health, science or technology story. Also, this is just before registration for summer and fall semesters. Many students are making decisions about courses to take as they move forward.

The course meets 8th period (3 to 3:50 p.m.) in 230 Florida Gym.

Here are questions/topics that I plan to use to structure our discussion:

1. What was your environmental, health, science or technology story? How did you decide on that story focus?
2. Share a learning experience from doing that story – finding a story idea, locating expert sources, taking photos to go with your story, etc.
3. What was a challenge you encountered in working on your story and how did you overcome or adjust to the challenge?
4. What is something you enjoyed about your experience working on your EHST story?
5. What advice do you have about working with editors? [We don’t want to discuss specific people but do want to offer suggestions that could be specific to The Alligator, The Gainesville Sun, your hometown news organization, etc.]
6. Briefly explain a media experience you’ve had and how that’s helped you professionally. This could be an internship, being a member of a professional organization, or attending a professional conference. Explain how your experiences in JOU 3109 helped prepare you for this media experience.
7. What is a course you’ve taken that you would recommend for others? That could be an elective in the college or a course in another college, a study abroad program, etc. [We don’t want to endorse a specific instructor but want to talk about how a course/certificate program can be useful.]

You may want you make a few notes to yourself for reference. In terms of dress, I’d appreciate it if you’d wear business casual.

Here is a list of the panelists: (include names here)

All of you on the panel have impressive accomplishments. As relevant to the discussion, please share your experience in leadership in organizations, study abroad, internships, etc. The current students are interested in hearing what it takes to have those accomplishments. You can talk about how one accomplishment can lead to another, how making connections can help, how making an extra effort can pay off, etc.

In some cases, activities in high school have played a part in current successes. Good fortune can be an element, but your successes are due to your hard work, persistence, and willingness to get outside your comfort zone.

I look forward to having you in class!