



## GroundTruth Fellowships

The GroundTruth Project is a nonprofit organization that supports emerging journalists in telling the most important stories of their generation. GroundTruth was founded in 2014 by a team of storytellers who wanted to provide this next generation with meaningful reporting opportunities, which have become increasingly scarce as the news industry faces continued tumult. Our fellowship programs vary in their length and structure, as we pilot innovative approaches to cultivating talent. However, our goals and expectations remain steadfast:

At the core of our work is the idea of "ground truth," which, put simply, means **being on the ground to tell the story**. The origin of the word actually comes from NASA, and refers to part of the calibration process used in satellite imagery. When NASA measures something with a satellite, an employee on the ground takes the same measurement. That human measurement is known as "ground truth." We believe that reporting from location, talking to people and seeing things with one's own eyes, is crucial to crafting narrative storytelling that enlightens and informs.

We aim to provide the means for fellows to **pursue a meaningful story** – one that increases understanding and knowledge on issues of social justice. GroundTruth organizes all of the logistics and operational aspects so fellows can focus on creating stories that have true impact.

We aim to train fellows to **report safely**. In an increasingly perilous environment for journalists, we want fellows to get into the practice of taking every precaution to ensure their own safety. This includes reading the GroundTruth Field Guide, assessing and understanding the risks of an assignment, and insuring their trip. We expect that fellows abide by our principles for safe reporting, and be willing to change their reporting plans when safety concerns arise.

We aim to prepare fellows for **reporting in the digital age**. One person cannot be a jack-of-all-trades in the field, taking photos, writing, and capturing audio, and expect to be successful. Instead, GroundTruth encourages collaboration and teamwork between journalists of different mediums to create compelling multi-media packages.

We also encourage **partnering with local journalists** when possible, as this enriches perspectives and connections to the community. At the heart of GroundTruth is a people-to-people spirit. To have the most successful fellowship, we ask that fellows enter with a collaborative and innovative mindset.

We aim to provide **outstanding editorial guidance** for fellows to develop great stories. Our team of editors draw upon their wealth of experience to mentor and guide fellows throughout the process of developing, shaping, refining, and pitching their stories. We ask that fellows be nimble throughout this process; we live in an ever-changing world, and due to any number of factors, a project scope may need to change to truly have impact.

We aim to **publish fellows' work in major news outlets**. GroundTruth's website is one platform in which fellows' stories are shared, but we also leverage GroundTruth's editorial partnerships in TV, radio, and online newspapers to reach the widest possible audience. To streamline communications, GroundTruth editors lead the pitching process, but in consultation with fellows. We encourage fellows to think through where their stories could be a good fit, and voice their ideas for placement.

Lastly, we aim to create a **network of support** for talented journalists during a turbulent and transformative time in journalism. As a GroundTruth fellow, you're part of a community of exceptionally talented and socially consciousness journalists. After your fellowship ends, stay in touch and let us know how you're doing, and how we can help. And perhaps one day, when you're well-established in your career, consider lending your own expertise to mentoring the next generation of journalists.