



ROSANA HUGHES

JOURNALIST

ABOUT

Award-winning journalist with nearly a decade of experience in fast-paced newsrooms and a passion for translating complex topics into clear, conversational language. Known for strong editorial judgment, meticulous attention to detail and a collaborative spirit.

CONTACT

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EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts in Journalism
Southern Adventist University
2016

AWARDS

Best Single Feature, 1st Place
Tennessee Press Association
2020

Best News Reporting, 2nd
Place
Tennessee Press Association
2020 & 2021

Public Service, 2nd Place
Tennessee Press Association
2019

LANGUAGES

- English (Fluent)
- Spanish (Fluent)
- Italian (Beginner)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Staff Writer | January 2022 - March 2026

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Atlanta, Georgia

- Led early-morning breaking news coverage for a daily newspaper serving metro Atlanta, a Top 10 U.S. media market, exercising independent news judgment and producing fast, accurate, clean copy under tight deadlines.
- Used audience analytics tools to inform headline optimization while upholding editorial standards; generated 331 subscription starts and 1.6 million page views in 2025, ranking first on a five-person breaking news team.
- Helped manage live coverage of major breaking news events, aggregating reporting from across a 150-person newsroom into blog-style updates.
- Frequently oversaw morning team operations, setting coverage priorities, leading morning planning meetings and assisting with copy editing.
- Built the team's internal reporting hub in Notion and Microsoft Loop, centralizing resources for reporters and editors.
- Standardized open records request strategy, creating multiple reliable internal datasets to support trend analysis and accountability reporting.

Staff Writer | June 2021 - January 2022

Courthouse News Service, Chattanooga, Tennessee

- Covered legal, political and environmental news across the Southeast, including breaking and enterprise reporting with national relevance.
- Produced concise summaries of newly filed civil litigation across a seven-county region, distilling complex material in a recurring format for a daily legal digest.

Contract Researcher | August 2021 - November 2022

Coeo Strategies, Chattanooga, Tennessee

- Performed exploratory research to help identify systemic gaps and emerging opportunities for philanthropic investment within local criminal justice reform efforts.
- Conducted structured interviews with justice system stakeholders, compiling perspectives across prosecution, defense, judiciary and municipal leadership.
- Developed exhaustive interview summaries that guided strategic proposal development.

Staff Writer | May 2017 - April 2021

Chattanooga Times Free Press, Chattanooga, Tennessee

- Covered crime, courts, police and public safety for a daily newspaper serving a 20-county tri-state region.
- Produced exclusive, high-impact spot news and enterprise reporting.
- Fostered a robust source network within law enforcement, courts and the broader community to strengthen accuracy and context in coverage.
- Built and maintained public records databases, including a spreadsheet tracking 10 years of homicides, to support long-term investigative and trend reporting.
- **Intern (May 2017 – May 2018):** Reported general assignment and enterprise stories on crime, education, weather and local government.