

ATARAH ISRAEL

Digital Journalism, Visual Storytelling & Writing

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<https://atarahi.my.canva.site/portfolio>

Education

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Medill School of Journalism

Bachelor of Science, Journalism & minors in Black Studies and Creative Nonfiction Design, June 2026

Cumulative GPA: 3.82 / 4.00

Seven-time Dean's List Recipient

ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES

London, England (Spring 2024)

Interviewed and profiled a Black grunge-soul singer and Black funeral celebrants during an intensive week-long reporting trip in London.

Kingston, Jamaica (Summer 2024 & 2025)

Assisted in interviewing and filming a documentary about an Afro-Jamaican religious community during sophomore and junior summers.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK JOURNALISTS (NABJ)

Student Multimedia Project, March - August 2026

Presently receiving one-on-one mentorship in graphic design with Felicia Vasquez, Features Art Director of The New York Times, and monthly cohort-wide training on professional reporting. The program will culminate in a week of on-the-ground reporting at NABJ's annual conference in August.

Awards

ENGLISH DEPT HELEN G. SCOTT PRIZE FOR LITERARY MEDIA, 2026: "A People Lost"

STUDENT GOV ELECTION POSTER DESIGN CONTEST WINNER, 2024: "Your Vote Matters"

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH GRANT FLETCHER PRIZE FINALIST, 2024

INDIANA HIGH SCHOOL JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR, 2022

Creative Skills

Social Media Content Creation

Visual Storytelling

Editorial Design

Graphic Design

Video Editing

UI/UX Design

Photography

Copy Editing

Art Direction

Marketing

Technical Skills

Microsoft Office Suite

Adobe Creative Suite

Canva Pro

CapCut

Klaviyo

Asana

Notion

Wix

Professional Experience

FREELANCE DESIGNER / Digital & Visual Storyteller Remote

April 2024 - present

As a freelance journalist, writer and illustrator, I have reported on local businesses for professional publications, created photo illustrations that enhance digital stories and designed promotional material for student orgs at my school. Highlights include covering a Black & Queer-owned vintage pop-up for the Chicago Reader, writing and illustrating my own commentary piece for The Nation and designing visuals for another Nation story.

BLACKBOARD MAGAZINE / Editor-in-Chief Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.

June 2025 - June 2026

Responsible for both the online and print presence of Northwestern's only Black student-interest magazine, much of the work I did was self-guided and multifarious:

- Revamped BlackBoard's digital image by creating an entirely new website, ensuring all online stories were SEO optimized before publishing, designing 40 of our roughly 50 social media graphics, conceiving our first newsletter and creating a style guide for print and social media.
- Copy-edited two mag issues and five web stories. Designed 20 pages of our 22-page digital fall issue, and 24 of our 32-page winter/spring (print) issue.
- Created systems to track pitches and deadlines, outlined fundraising ideas for our events coordinator to execute and created a finance ledger.
- Fostered strong connections with our writers and photographers by leading workshops and offering one-on-one advice aimed at ensuring quality journalism at every step of the way.

Creative Writing Editor, September 2024 - June 2025

Assistant Web Editor, August 2023 - October 2023

ROBERTA BUFFETT INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL AFFAIRS / Undergraduate Research Fellow and Documentary Assistant

Evanston, Ill. & Kingston, Jamaica

April 2024 - June 2026

This role as an assistant for Northwestern Black & Religious Studies professor Dr. KB Dennis-Meade existed at the intersection of marketing, media and academic research. I captured over 183 minutes of behind-the-scenes documentary footage while actively shadowing researchers on-the-ground in Jamaica as they interviewed religious practitioners and filmed mourning ceremonies. I designed promotional flyers, created a social media calendar, co-edited a sneak-peak trailer, photographed various sites, engaged in rigorous study of Afro-Caribbean folk religion and conducted archival research at the National Library of Jamaica.

IN THESE TIMES MAGAZINE / Fact-Checking Intern

Remote/Chicago, Ill.

September - December 2025

Wrote a review of *Assata: An Autobiography* that was reprinted by *ITT* and peaked as the No. 5 most popular story. Reported, filmed and edited an Instagram reel about Chicago's zine history. Fact-checked and co-fact-checked almost 50 stories over 13 weeks, with topics ranging from anti-trans policies in schools to unfair labor practices. Interviewed Chicago performer and poet Jamila Woods for the *ITT* Culture section.

NU UNDERGRAD SUMMER RESEARCH GRANT / Zine Co-Editor & Co-Researcher Chicago, Ill.

June - August 2024

BLACK POETRY SOCIETY / External Relations Chair and Interim Treasurer Evanston, Ill.

February 2023 - September 2024

MEDILL SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM / Medill Ambassador Evanston, Ill.

July 2023 - October 2024

PR Assistant, September 2022 - June 2023