

MyAhna Alston
Professor Thomas
MJFC 460-01
13 February 2024

Seven Attributes of A Successful Reporter

According to Jim Hall, the author of “Pre-writing: To be a Successful Reporter”, a successful reporter is able to generalize and notice unusual or ironic circumstances and organize important information. Along with this, he or she is smart, quick, curious, pleasant, honest, and courageous.

In my opinion, it is most important that a reporter displays curiosity, and is courageous out of all the things mentioned. Being an overly-curious person is key to being a successful reporter. The main aspect of our professional duty is to dig deep into issues and ask questions about life and society that the general public may want to know, or questions that the public may not think to ask but could still be affected by the answers. As journalists, we are the eyes and ears of the public, so our curiosity is the main thing that allows us to uncover and relay information that is important to Americans’ way of life.

Additionally, I believe courage is the second most important quality trait that a successful reporter should possess. It takes a certain level of bravery to reach out to interview subjects, especially politicians with power and hold them accountable. However, it is a reporter's responsibility to ask powerful government officials and administration difficult questions in spite of threats or negative feedback in order to uphold democracy. As a reporter, you must be willing to take risks to cover controversial issues and even sometimes place yourself in dangerous environments in order to cover untold stories such as war effects and other stories concerning foreign relations. Also, being meek about reaching out to sources for stories is less effective than being brave and making every possible effort to reach out to sources despite possible rejection. As a reporter, you must not fear making mistakes, or being the less-educated one, or receiving criticism because that is you learn and become the best journalist possible in order to better serve your community.