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1) Which video resonated with you the most and why?

According to WBLS’s video, *Tamron Hall discusses her career & challenges as a Black journalist*. I resonated with this video the most. It was something I didn’t even realize I needed to hear. Listening to her speak made me pause and really think about what success in journalism actually looks like. She spoke from experience and not from a place of trying to impress anyone.

What stood out to me most was how she talked about knowing when a space no longer serves you. In journalism, people tell you to be grateful just to be in the room, no matter how uncomfortable or limiting that room might be. Hearing her explain that growth sometimes means choosing yourself helped me see the journalism field differently. It reminded me that journalism isn’t just about being seen, but about being able to show up 100% authentically yourself.

Her words also connected with me on a deeper level and how I live my life under the mindset of #MissionUnstoppable. To me, that means staying the course of the race no matter how hard the race. when the path isn’t easy, even when doors close and even when people underestimate you. It means knowing your purpose and refusing to let obstacles define or stop you. Listening to Tamron Hall speak reminded me that being unstoppable doesn’t always look loud or flashy. Sometimes it looks like making quiet, powerful decisions that protect your peace and align with who you are becoming.

I also appreciated how she didn’t speak with anger or regret. She spoke with clarity. That showed strength to me. It made me realize that not every struggle has to be loud to be meaningful. Sometimes it’s about recognizing your worth and understanding that you deserve more.

Her video stayed with me because it reminded me of why I want to be in journalism in the first place. I don’t want to do this just to say I did it. I want my work to matter. I want to tell stories with purpose and intention. Living by #MissionUnstoppable, and hearing Tamron Hall’s story reinforced that no matter the challenges, I will keep going and stay true to why I started.

2) How did broadcast news impact the Civil Rights Movement? Which clip brought this to the forefront? Discuss the story and your thoughts.

Broadcast news’s major impact on the Civil Rights Movement was making everything that happened lively. People weren’t just hearing about injustice anymore or seeing pictures in the newspaper; they were seeing it live. Viewers were able to witness what was actually going on in real time. Seeing clips of protests, violence and the treatment of Black activists felt real and impossible to ignore. For the Black community, especially, this visibility gave hope. It showed that their struggles were being documented and shared with the world.

The clip that brought this to the forefront for me was CNN Business’s, *Watch CNN’s very first day on air in 1980*, when they covered the story of Vernon Jordan. This was the very first story CNN ever reported, which is powerful on its own. Vernon Jordan was a civil rights activist who had been shot and instead of

the story being hidden or minimized, it was shown on national television. Seeing that coverage made it clear that what was happening to Black leaders mattered and deserved attention.

It was so much to take in emotionally. It was sad that the first story wasn't about Black success, but about violence against a Black male who was fighting for equality. At the same time, the coverage showed how much support surrounded him. The people of Fort Wayne stood behind Vernon Jordan and the news showed how donations and reward funds were created across the country to help find the person responsible. That kind of visibility showed unity and strength within the community.

Overall, broadcast news and newspaper images helped the Civil Rights Movement by turning lived experiences into a shared reality. By showing clips and photos of what was actually happening, the media helped people understand the urgency of the movement and the importance of standing up for justice.

3) What are the similarities and differences between the first 30 min newscast and those on the air today? What was unique about that first broadcast aesthetically? How did Cronkite "end" his newscast and why was this news clip unique?

When watching *CBS EVENING NEWS: 1981 Clip (Walter Cronkite's Final Broadcast)*, which was the first 30-minute broadcast, there are both similarities and differences between the first 30-minute newscast and the newscasts we see on modern television today. One major similarity is the structure of the news package. The purpose of the broadcast has stayed the same, which is to inform the public and give people accurate information. In the first broadcast, CBS focused on delivering the facts without trying to shape the story in a specific way. For example, when the president's press secretary spoke, CBS did not edit the statement to make it stronger or more dramatic. They presented what was said as the truth and allowed viewers to take in the information for themselves. That same responsibility still exists in the news today, even though the delivery has changed.

The first broadcast was in black and white and the words on the screen were blurry. Although the color only allows you to see black and white, you can almost imagine the colors, which makes it feel like a moving newspaper coming to life. Even though it was black and white, the choice of pictures and graphics that were used carried meaning, showing how powerful broadcast television can inform the public. Today's newscasts are in full color with high-definition visuals, graphics and strong on-screen text. Modern news also adds more details, soundbites and quotes to make stories more hard-hitting and engaging. Another big difference is how personal the first broadcast felt. For example, per *CBS EVENING NEWS: 1981 Clip*, Walter Cronkite sat in a newsroom with people working behind him, typing and moving around. That made the broadcast feel real and up close. I feel like today, the news can sometimes lose that personal connection. In most modern-day newscasts, anchors usually sit at a reporter's desk with a screen behind them, limiting the audience from being distracted from what's going on behind them and allowing them to focus on what news is being said.

In Walter Cronkite's last newscast, he announced it was his last time anchoring all in the span of a minute video. For example, he informed the audience his time had come to an end and he'd been planning his exit for some time but it was his time to go. He also explained that he was not going away and would return with special news reports, documentaries and a science program called *Universe* beginning in June. As in "*CBS EVENING NEWS: 1981 Clip*", Cronkite famously said, "old anchormen, as you see, don't fade

away, they just keep coming back for more.” He also reflected on the history of the broadcast and described the transition between anchors of the evening show as a “passing of the baton,” explaining how Doug Edwards came before him and Dan Rather would follow after.

4) How did CNN revolutionize the news industry? What stood out specifically about the first day of coverage? Who were the anchors and what made them unique? Who was the first news story about and how did they relate to Howard University?

CNN revolutionized the news industry by becoming the first 24-hour cable news network, which completely changed how people consumed news aside from reading newspapers. According to Brandon Millman’s video on *CNN First Hour: June 1, 1980*, I noticed that instead of waiting for a specific time to watch the evening news, the news was available at any hour of the day. Some things that stood out to me about CNN’s very first day of coverage were how fast and seriously they approached reporting. There was no dramatic buildup or flashy introduction. The anchors introduced themselves and immediately went into the news. In today’s modern news there is usually a video introduction or an eye-catcher to draw the audience in and get them engaged before they start talking about the news. Unless it’s breaking news, then it’s very similar.

In addition, I noticed that CNN opened its very first broadcast with a story centered on an African-American civil rights leader. The first story was about Vernon Jordan, who had survived an attempted assassination and was recovering from a gunshot wound. The coverage was very in-depth and detailed and I think this was intentional. Starting the network with this story showed that CNN was willing to highlight Black leaders and issues as important national news, not side stories. President Jimmy Carter even visited Vernon Jordan in the hospital in Indiana, which showed how serious the situation was. Across Indiana and the country, people showed support through vigils, prayers and community organizing. Black leaders formed an ad hoc committee to keep their communities informed and created a Vernon Jordan fund to raise money for a reward to help capture the person responsible.

This story relates to Howard University because Vernon Jordan is a Howard University alumnus, as he graduated in 1960. As a graduate of the Howard University School of Law, for Howard students and alumni, seeing a Howard graduate lead major civil rights efforts and be the focus of national news reinforces Howard’s legacy as a place that produces influential Black leaders. CNN choosing this story for its first broadcast unintentionally tied the network’s launch to Howard University’s history of activism, leadership, and social justice.

The anchors for the first broadcast were David Walker and Lois Hart, who were newlyweds as they married in 1979, a year before the June 1st, 1980, premiere of CNN. This couple were the first anchors of the launch of the first 24-hour news channel. Specially selected by Ted Turner, who created the CNN newscast, these anchors were told they got the job 3 or 4 days before the premiere and they wasted no time easing into the broadcast. With this being CNN’s first newscast, Lois Hart’s expertise stood out during coverage of the Reggie Jackson incident when there were technical difficulties. Instead of panicking or breaking composure, she calmly acknowledged the issue and smoothly continued with the news. That moment showed CNN’s professionalism and confidence from day one, which made them develop trust with their viewers. While these were CNN’s first anchors, they only spent nine years as anchors and returned to local in Sacramento, CA, where they started as reporters.

5)What did you learn most from “A Day in the Life of a Newsroom?” and which role would you feel most comfortable with?

According to, BaySunday’s *A Day in the Life of the Newsroom*, I learned how important every single role in the newsroom is, big or small. Although everyone may not work with the entire newsroom staff daily, eventually you will, so it’s important to develop a good work relationship with your coworkers. A good work system is the key to making sure all news, productions, etc., are timely and accurate.

What stood out most was how closely reporters and photographers work together in the field. They are constantly feeding video back to the station, sometimes one tape after another, while producers and editors are waiting to edit the footage as fast and accurately as possible. They needed to make sure that any live shots were accurate and that the story was edited accurately. In addition, I loved how this video highlighted the relationship between the reporter and the managing editor, especially when they were making last-minute script changes to improve the story for the evening show. It showed that storytelling is a team effort, not just one person on camera. This showed me that the reporter works closely with most of the staff in the newsroom, which means a great reporter must have great work ethic, no matter if that means changing a story last minute because the managing editor requests it or re-recording a stand-up requested by the video editor to make the video look smoother.

The control room was another part that I was really interested in. The show director, assistant director, technical director, audio technicians and production assistants (PA) all work together to electronically mix the entire newscast into one smooth production. The PA even runs the teleprompter and helps move scripts to the anchor desk. The newsroom is the definition of organized chaos. As stated, “once the show starts, nothing stops”. The news waits for no one and everyone must be ready at their exact moment.

Lastly, the breaking news section shocked me. It was handled like a regular story and honestly, I thought it would be more chaotic behind the scenes. The anchor only focuses on writing the facts and preparing for a cut-in, while everyone else continues doing their specific role. It made me realize how equally important every position is. After watching this video, I would feel most comfortable working as a reporter, anchor or as an assistant director. As an anchor or reporter, I love storytelling and being in the field, making sure I stay true to my promise of amplifying voices. As an assistant director, I would love to experience life inside the control room and be part of the fast-paced decision-making that keeps the newsroom running.

6)What were the lead stories on BET Nightly News? What stood out about the news anchor and newscast? How long was BET Nightly News on air and why don’t we have something similar on air now?

According to, B.E.T. ‘s *B.E.T. Nightly News with Jacque Reid, Reaction to R Kelly*, the lead stories on BET Nightly News focused on major issues that directly affected the Black community, including stories that would have been overlooked or underreported on mainstream news networks like CNN, FOX and NBC. One of the biggest lead stories that stood out was the R.Kelly case. Instead of briefly mentioning it, BET Nightly News treated it like a serious and ongoing issue. They opened the show with it and spent a long time breaking it down, almost like a lead feature story. There was a lot of evidence presented, along with multiple interviews from many entertainment figures around that time like Faith Evans and Suge

Knight, as well as an exclusive interview from R.Kelly himself. It wasn't treated as celebrity gossip, but as a real case with real harm and real consequences, especially for Black women and girls. Other lead stories focused on civil rights issues, police struggles with the Black community, and challenges that Black people specifically needed to be aware of. These were stories that felt personal and relevant, not generalized.

What really stood out to me about the news anchor and the newscast was how different it felt from traditional news. The anchor was a Black woman and she anchored the show by herself without a co-anchor. That alone stood out. Her appearance also felt intentional and cultural. She wore her hair in a short pixie cut instead of a silk press, which felt like it was embracing Black identity rather than conforming to mainstream standards. Her outfit was more casual too, like the Burberry jean jacket, which you would never really see on anchors today. In today's modern news world, anchors are expected to look a certain way, such as dress business professionals, encouraged to wear their hair down and blown out, leaving out little to no room to show personality, but BET Nightly News didn't follow those rules. It felt more relatable and authentic.

BET Nightly News was on the air for about four years, from 2001 to 2005. I don't think we have something similar on air today because mainstream media still doesn't prioritize Black-centered news in the same way. Networks may include Black stories, but they are shortened, softened, or framed differently. BET Nightly News created a space where Black issues were not secondary; they were the focus. That's something we are still missing today in 2026, twenty-one years later.

7) Finally, what are your thoughts about Tamron Hall's comments, and why?

According to WBLS's *Tamron Hall discusses her career & challenges as a Black journalist*, Tamron Hall's comments deeply connected with me because everything she said felt real, raw and honest. When she mentioned that Don Lemon was the only African American hosting a cable news show in the evening out of CNN, MSNBC and Fox, it made me think about how little representation there actually is in all news spaces. Even today, Black people are seen more as entertainers than professionals. When it comes to reporting and doing the actual work, people are surprised to see us there, almost like we don't belong. Sometimes in 2026, it still feels like we're only included to check off a diversity box and I truly believe that's what happened to Tamron Hall on the *Today* show.

As a Black girl growing up, this is exactly what I saw while watching the news and talk shows every day. I rarely saw people who looked like me and when I did, I looked up to them. I specifically chose broadcast journalism because I wanted to be the representation for little Black girls and boys watching television, much like Tameron Hall. I wanted them to see someone who looks like them having careers doing real, important work and not just the common "quick money" self-employed jobs they are surrounded and influenced by. That is why my acronym in my quote, V.O.I.C.E., means so much to me. When Tamron Hall said that when you really think about it, "it's more than about you, it's about the people watching you," that hit home for me because that is literally my reason why.

In her experience, when she became the first Black woman to anchor the *Today* show in its 60-year history, Hall talked about how she was stunned and torn. She said you didn't want to be known as "the Black anchor," you just want to be known as a journalist. This is so true. Black women should be able to

exist in these spaces without anyone second-guessing their work based on their skin color, or even just as decoration to make the company look good.

Now she has her own talk show, built on “meeting people where they are”. As she ends interviews, she quotes Maya Angelou and states, “and still I rise.” Powerful. Who knew that hearing these words from Tameron Hall would be my motivation? As a young Black journalist, people will try to turn you away because of your age, your gender, or your skin color. But like she said, “we try to look for ways to stand out, and for the very mere fact that you exist, you stand out.” I will always keep, “and still I rise” with me, because no one can stop me from showcasing my talents, being an inspiration to the world and being the next female news anchor.

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