

Journalism Honor Roll Scholarship Why I'm Choosing a Career in Journalism

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It's not easy to go to college interviews, discuss my love for newswriting, editorials, layout, and photography, and then get the same, "Well, I otherwise thought you were a good candidate for our school, but now I think you're crazy," look. And I can't exactly blame the alumni and admissions officers. Opening a newspaper has become a bad omen; there are stories of how the paper is folding, how journalism is dying, how this profession holds no future. There are times, I admit, that I question my career choice. But those thoughts are few and far between; most of the time, I just stare back at my college interviewer, raise my eyebrows slightly, and say, "Society cannot exist without information."

That statement is where my love for journalism stems. Yes, Apple employees can create new devices that will undoubtedly take the world by storm, NASA engineers can thrust people into space, and Coca-Cola employees can attempt to design negative-calorie drinks—but what good are all of these careers without a journalist to relay the information to the community? A journalist, by far, holds the most important role in our town, city, state, nation, continent, and world; without journalists, people would know nothing and question nothing. We dare people to become informed. We dare people to think. And because of those dares, we prove that despite our ever-changing—not dying—career, journalists will always be a constant in our evolving society.

Journalism has become more than a class or a job to me; it has become a lesson of self-discovery and learning. I've learned that it's okay to make a few people angry; after all, for every negative reaction I cause, I undoubtedly earn more respect from others. I've learned the importance of standing my ground, of knowing my facts, and not letting people scare me away from what I truly feel is right. There is nothing more empowering to me than speaking my mind, informing others, and knowing that every word I write is, in some way or another, impacting my readers. How's that for career benefits?

So, sure, journalism may not guarantee the most fabulous future. I will never be the woman in front of the camera, but always the one behind it. I will never be the woman to jump to conclusions, but always the one to question every step in an investigation. I will never be the woman holding a stable job, but always the one living paycheck-to-paycheck, hoping that my big break will come. But, despite these insecurities, I will never consider changing my career path. A journalist, and forgive me for being biased, is truly the most important job. While I may not become rich monetarily, I have become, and hope to continue to be, rich with experience and knowledge and touched by the people I meet. That is why I want to pursue a career in journalism.