

# THE NYCJ INTERVIEW GUIDE



You are about to interview with the editor of a publication for an internship. The editor is busy, so don't waste their time, collect yourself, and be prepared. You should trust other advice you've heard about interviewing for a job or internship in general, but here is the advice you need to prepare yourself for interviewing with a publication.

## 1. READ THE PUBLICATION

Don't skim the headlines. Really fully read some of their articles and get a feel for what their voice is, what they cover, and why they exist. If you know why they matter it's a lot easier to convince the editor why you matter.

## 2. RESEARCH THE PUBLICATION

Find the masthead. Look at how their teams are structured and read social media streams from the journalists already working there. Look into some of the history of the publication. How old is the publication? What was the story that put them on the map? Who owns them? Have they been bought recently? If the parent company is something like Vox media, it has a significant impact on how they operate and treat content in a way that you should definitely know about.

## 3. RESEARCH THE EDITOR

Know who your talking to. Twitter feeds are a great way to figure out someone's personality, but do some deeper research. What other publications have they worked at? What kinds of beats have they worked on? There are significant differences between an editor who got started on the Hill in Washington D.C. working

for the Washington Post versus someone who freelanced in Europe covering immigration for Vice. When you're finally interviewing the editor, get them talking about their career in publication and life experience.

## 4. HAVE THREE OR FOUR GOOD QUESTIONS

This is not optional. When you get to the end of your interview and the editor asks you if you have any questions, you should have more questions than you have time to ask. Remember, you're interviewing for a journalism internship, so your ability to ask intelligent questions and be curious is the fundamental thing you need to prove. If you've done the rest of the homework above, you should have your bearings enough for a few questions that you've come up with during the interview and three or four questions you wrote ahead of time.

## 5. BE POSITIVE

If you've done everything above, you've got this. Stay upbeat in the interview and even if your resume isn't long and you don't have many clips, be confident in what you've accomplished. Be personable, likable and try to get the editor talking. Communicate sincere excitement about the community and publication. Don't come off as a prima donna, or stereotype. Express genuine eagerness to work hard and land bylines. Some of the best and most important journalists live in New York. Don't be intimidated by this. Show that your willing to do the work that it takes to be one of them.