General Interview Questions (Journalism)

Overview

On occasion, employers do not utilize an interview protocol (e.g., behavioral interviewing) and instead opt for more general questions to ascertain your abilities and fit with the organization. The questions that could be asked are endless, but a sampling of possibilities has been provided for you here.

Sample of General Interview Questions

- Why have you chosen this field and/or our organization?
- What kind of stories should we be covering that we are currently not?
- Which reporter who works for us do you like and why?
- What is the biggest story in the industry at the moment?
  - Be prepared for questions on current affairs and the day’s news.
  - Be prepared to share your thoughts on the future of newspapers and the rise of digital journalism.
- Of all of the social media platforms, which is the best way to convey the news and why?
  - What more should we do within the social media platforms we use?
- Tell me about a time you had to pitch and sell an idea to a cross-functional team.
- What experiences, professional or personal, have best prepared you for this position?
- What journalism skills that you possess will be relevant to this communications position?
- Describe three (3) of your strengths and three (3) of your weaknesses.
- Describe how you handle deadlines, stress, and competing deadlines.
- Do you feel skilled to tell stories in more than one medium?
- What are your strengths/weaknesses around the technology of storytelling (shooting, editing)?
- Would you be comfortable being on camera for print web casts or tv live shots (more and more common for print reporters to do news live shots)?
- Tell me about yourself.
  - Ask the interviewer for more specificity to focus your answer: about your career journey, about why you are transitioning to this field/occupation/position.