

Professional Interview

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COM 490: Communication Capstone

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June 14, 2026

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For this assignment, I spoke with Courtney Dempsey from Good Day Sacramento to find out more about what it's like to work in broadcast journalism and communication. She talked about why she chose this career, what her typical day looks like, and shared advice for anyone thinking about a similar path. Hearing her perspective gave me a clearer picture of what it's really like to work in television news and helped me see both the benefits and difficulties of the job.

Dempsey said she chose journalism because she loves telling stories and connecting with others. She wanted to inform the public, bring attention to important community issues, and share the stories of people who might not otherwise be heard. She believes journalism lets her make a difference by sharing accurate information and helping people stay up to date on events that matter to them.

Dempsey says that every day in broadcast journalism is different. Journalists might spend their time researching stories, interviewing people, writing scripts, filming segments, going to community events, and presenting news on air. She explains that they always need to be ready for surprises, breaking news, and tight deadlines. Clear and effective communication with all kinds of audiences is one of the most important skills in this field.

When asked what she wished she had known before starting her career, Dempsey said the schedule was more demanding and required more flexibility than she expected. News doesn't follow a regular timetable, so journalists often work early mornings, late nights, weekends, and even holidays. She also pointed out that building resilience is important, since journalists often deal with criticism and need to handle pressure while staying professional.

Talking with Dempsey made me realize how much I like the idea of working in broadcast journalism. I enjoy jobs that let me communicate, connect with the public, and help the community. This field gives you the chance to meet people from all walks of life, learn about important topics, and keep growing your skills. The fast pace and different tasks each day make the work both interesting and rewarding.

Still, there are parts of the job that make me pause. The unpredictable hours and fast paced setting could make it hard to keep a good work life balance. Having to report accurate information quickly can also be stressful. Even though these things would be tough, I think the chance to help society by sharing information makes it worthwhile.

One of the best parts of working in broadcast journalism is being able to inform and influence the public in meaningful ways. Journalists get to educate people, uncover important stories, and share news that can inspire change. They also meet people from all kinds of backgrounds and share experiences that might not be heard otherwise. On the other hand, the job can be tough because of the demanding schedule, tight deadlines, and the public scrutiny that comes with being in the spotlight.

My background in communication would be a strong asset in this field. In my courses, I learned public speaking, audience analysis, interpersonal communication, research, and media literacy. Journalists rely on these skills to gather information, conduct interviews, check sources, and share information clearly and accurately. Good communication also helps build trust with both interviewees and audiences. My studies have taught me the value of ethical communication, critical thinking, and adjusting messages for different groups, all of which are important in broadcast journalism.

A Christian worldview can influence people working in journalism. Journalists often deal with ethical choices about truth, fairness, and responsibility. Values like honesty, integrity, compassion, and respect for others can help guide these decisions. This perspective encourages seeking truth, treating people with dignity, and using one's influence to help others instead of seeking personal recognition. Even though journalists need to stay objective, Christian principles can still affect how they do their work and interact with sources, coworkers, and audiences.

In Here I Am: Now What on Earth Should I Be Doing? Quentin J. Schultze offers a helpful way to think about career choices. He explains that vocation is more than just picking a job; it is about finding ways to use your talents, interests, and faith to help others. Instead of seeing work only as a way to make money, the book suggests that careers are a chance to answer God's call and give back to society. This idea fits well with journalism, since the field is focused on informing, educating, and serving people. The interview with Dempsey also showed how communication professionals can use their skills to make a real difference in others' lives.

Interviewing Courtney Dempsey gave me a better understanding of broadcast journalism. I learned more about the responsibilities, challenges, and rewards that come with the job. Even though the schedule can be tough and the pressure is high, I find the chance to share important news, help the public, and make a difference very appealing. Talking with Dempsey and reading Schultze's textbook helped me see how communication careers can be meaningful for both individuals and society.

References

C. Dempsey (personal communication, June 10, 2026)

Schultze, Q. J. (2013). *Here I am: Now what on earth should I be doing?* Baker Books. eISBN
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