

ABC NEWS INTERNSHIP APPLICATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Intern applicants must be college juniors or seniors and provide confirmation from their schools that they will receive academic credit for the internship. If you fulfill those guidelines, please complete the application questionnaire which follows:

Please include your name, telephone number and e-mail address below and answer the following seven questions. Return to Lee Culp at e-mail address:

lee.f.culp@abc.com

Applicant Name: Sara Coughlin

Applicant Telephone Number and E-Mail Address:

(919) 270-7269
sarac@email.unc.edu

1. What do you hope to gain from the ABC News internship program if selected?

I hope to learn about the everyday realities of broadcasting that will help me in my pursuit of a successful career in broadcast journalism. I would also hope to acquire some of the practical skills that I will need to be better equipped for this field. I would hope that an internship at ABC News would provide an opportunity to build a working relationship with leaders in the field from whom I could gain valuable knowledge. I am certain that any experience at ABC news would prove to be indispensable to me in accomplishing my future goals.

2. What interests you about broadcast journalism?

The influence that the media has upon people gives broadcast journalists the ability to affect the way that people view the world. I believe that the importance of broadcast journalism is often underrated. The way a journalist tells a story impacts what people think and how they react to events. The capacity of journalists to provide up-to-the-minute news coverage to the public amazes me. The work of a broadcast journalist is ever-changing and the fast pace at which the field is constantly moving really appeals to me. However I am most interested in the way that broadcast journalist are able to tell stories that truly interest people.

3. Which ABC News broadcast(s) do you watch? What are your impressions?

I have been watching *Good Morning America* every morning since I was in the first grade. *GMA* continues to provide me with updated news that is presented in an interesting manner (to present news that can captivate 8 year olds and continue to interest my mother, must be doing something well). I am a big fan of both Charlie Gibson and Diane Sawyer and believe that together they make an incredibly strong team. Both of

them possess amazing people skills that allow them to ask questions the public wants to have answered. In my opinion, *GMA* contains a well-balanced mix of personal interest, entertainment, and hard news stories that people want to hear as they begin their days.

20/20 is another program that I have enjoyed watching for many years. The way that *20/20* tells its stories is usually quite intriguing. *20/20* approaches stories in a manner in which I can find them relevant to my own life. I also watch *Primetime* quite often and am always enthralled by the in-depth, investigative reporting that is done on the program. I believe that the things *Primetime* uncovers are things that people want and need to know; and that is what reporting is all about. *World News Tonight* is another program that has been a staple in providing me with updated news events that keep me feeling connected to the global community.

In sitting down to complete this application, I realized how much I depend on ABC News as my first source for learning about what is happening in the world. While I have a lot of faith in ABC News to provide me with accurate, updated, and interesting news stories, I must say that I am most impressed by the tasteful manner that ABC continues to broadcast its news.

4. What are your short and long-term goals? How would an internship at ABC News help you accomplish them?

My primary goal in beginning a career in journalism is to acquire as much experience as possible. I would like to fully explore the field of broadcasting to find what it is exactly that I would like to do. At this point, my hope is to be a reporter. I want to be able to go into the field, find a story, and bring it back to tell people about it. While I am certain that broadcasting is what I want to do, at this point, I am open to any new opportunities within the field and am excited to think about what the future may hold. An internship at ABC would be an incredible opportunity to learn more about broadcasting and would certainly provide me with valuable work experience. The chance to work with producers and correspondents with years of experience would help me to obtain a greater depth of knowledge for what I need to be well-equipped for this field. ABC – Washington would be a great opportunity and place to begin my career.

5. There are many applicants for a limited number of internships at ABC News, Washington. What do you think makes you a leading candidate?

I have a genuine interest in learning as much as possible about a career in broadcasting and would view any task put before me as a positive learning experience. I am energetic, determined, and extremely hardworking and have been told by professors that they have never seen a more enthusiastic student. I am also highly motivated, organized and responsible. I feel that my previous experiences in journalism have provided me with a secure foundation for accepting the demands of an internship with ABC. Through my work at Chapel Hill's news radio station, I have proven my ability to work under deadline pressure. I am also easy to get along with and am able and eager to work with many different types of people.

6. Is there anything else you wish to add in support of your application that has not been mentioned above?

7. What is your availability for an internship? What days of the week can you spend at the ABC News bureau?

I am available any time from May 15 to August 1, 2004.