

Ianna Fenton

### **Assignment #1) Seven Attributes of A Successful Reporter**

In the article, "Pre-writing- To be a successful reporter" (in "Articles" in Blackboard) the author names several attributes of a successful reporter. What are the seven? What in your opinion are the top two attributes and why? **At least 250 words**

**Article link:** <https://courses.p2pu.org/en/courses/1054/content/2206/>

**A:**

To be a successful reporter is to be a generalist. It is also to be quick, curious, pleasant, honest, courageous, and intelligent. To be a generalist is to have different perspectives and a willingness to discuss different topics with different individuals outside of one's own point of view. Quickness goes hand in hand with persistence. It means to go after the story immediately and without wavering despite certain responses or lack of responses. Curiosity slightly goes in being a generalist because to be curious is to focus on details for a variety of perspectives regarding your story. Being pleasant is simply to be friendly and to not have a presumptuous nature when you are talking to people. Honesty is not only accuracy but also being objective and making sure to report both sides of the story. Courage is having the strength to approach strangers and be bold about what you are writing with the understanding that though it may hurt some people, the story overall is important. Finally, Intelligence is the attribute that Jon Franklin initially thought was the most important to have. Intelligence is by definition the ability to acquire and apply knowledge and skills.

While all of these traits are important to have, to Jon Franklin's point, I believe one of the top attributes is courage because in journalism, everything is fast-paced and when being in a fast-paced environment, tension can rise so to be courageous and put yourself out there as to not be overlooked, is extremely important. The other top attribute in my opinion is pleasantness because reputation is also extremely important in journalism. You can be quick, intelligent and courageous but it doesn't mean anything if no one will talk to you because you have a reputation of being impolite or unfocused on the conversation when interviewing.

### **Assignment #2) The Standup Syndrome**

Read the article, "The Standup Syndrome" which can be found in Blackboard under "Articles" (and in the link below)

Discuss "No Attribution" and "Getting it Backward" and then explain in a Word Document which of the two infractions you believe is worse, and why. What does attribution precedes assertion mean? **\*At least 300 words**

**Article link:** <https://ajrarchive.org/article.asp?id=1682&id=1682>

The section “No Attribution” goes through examples of reporters using stand ups to state their own opinion on stories without proper sources. It can give the viewers the wrong impression of what a situation actually is as well as create a subjective narrative when one of the main points of journalism is to remain objective. The passage gives about six examples of reporters doing stand ups but adding subjective comments that can be read by the audience as negative or misleading.

“Getting It Backward” speaks on the dangers of recording a stand up before getting all the other elements and sources for a story. As the story changes, so does the stand up. If you record a stand up first and certain elements of the story change, then you can’t use the new elements as the example in the section shows. In order to avoid this, the paragraph says that the stand up will end in a sentence that shows that the story is still developing.

Of the two infractions, no attribution is worse because the story is potentially being swayed by certain wording or lack of information. This can lead to antagonizing people or situations and not keeping to the objectivity journalists are known to have. The term ‘attribution precedes assertion’ means that what is shown first is always going to be believed before what people are told after. If reporters are showing a situation that is unfolding without giving proper developments then they risk a misled community and threaten their credibility. While still not an ideal, the backward stand up is still a somewhat salvageable situation. If a reporter records a stand up first without having the new details of the situation, they can offer a statement at the end to allow the audience to expect new developments in the story. However, swaying the audience to one side or another of a situation based on the wording used in the stand up can risk a journalist’s credibility and question their ability to be objective and accurate.