

Journalism, the Dream of My Life

Do you have a dream that you definitely want to come true? I want to be a journalist writing for *The New York Times*. Yeah, that's right, *The New York Times*. Have you ever read a newspaper in English? It's challenging but fun. I started reading the *Times* a few years ago because I saw headlines about Donald Trump on the front page almost every day. I was curious. What could be *so* interesting about this old rich guy that they would write about him every day?

But first, let me tell you what attracted me to newspapers in general, even Japanese ones. Last year I had a workplace experience at a major newspaper company. It was my first time seeing how such a company works. I was able to talk with many journalists, I learned about what it takes to be one, and I even wrote a real newspaper article about the zoo.

Through these precious experiences, I found out about the magic of newspapers. I was particularly moved by the slow, careful pace of newspaper journalism. In our fast-paced modern society, the demand for newspapers is decreasing. I think the main reason for this is the spread of electronic devices. They can report news faster than newspapers. While this *is* great, newspapers can report the most *accurate* information. At the newspaper company, I saw everything checked by many editors before being delivered to the readers. Because of that, newspapers have less mistakes, and less misinformation, than digital news.

But now let's go back to *The New York Times*. Why would I want to work for a newspaper company in the US, and not in Japan? There are major differences between Japanese newspapers and English ones. In my opinion, the nuances in writing are the biggest differences between them. In Japan, many newspapers are written without personality in an attempt to be totally objective. On the other hand, when I read *The New York Times*, I saw a huge variety of expression. The articles about Trump had facts, criticism, *and* humor. I asked about this point when I was at the Japanese newspaper company, and the writers told me that my assessment was correct; they're careful to remain serious and unbiased. They don't express their opinions or put personality in their writing. However, I think having these things makes it easier for readers to understand events.

Another reason I want to work in the US is the political atmosphere around journalism. These days, journalism and the mainstream media are being heavily criticized by President Trump, and freedom of speech is being controlled by governments in many countries. This is happening not only in developing countries, but also developed countries. In these countries, if someone posts something to the public that shows the government in a bad light, they are punished by the police. In Japan, freedom of speech is guaranteed by law, so *ideally* this would never happen here. But in Japan, we still don't see much critical, global investigative journalism. And that's the kind of journalism I want to be a part of.

Using my experiences, I want to make my journalism dream come true. If I can achieve my dream, I want to share the reality of what is happening in the world. I want to go to many developing countries, experience the truth, and report the news with my own opinion. There is a lot of news that never reaches people around the world. For this reason, there are many realities that people don't know. Isn't that scary? My aim is to be a journalist who changes that. In ten years, pick up a copy of *The New York Times*, and I hope you'll see my name on it. Thank you.