

Student, only a

Getting the Story · By Simon Townsend · 1 min read

You ask about how to approach people for interviews and information while you are "ONLY" a student. No. Sorry, you misunderstand. From the very moment you go into action, you are a freelance journalist. Remember my 7th rule? Please take Rule 7 seriously:

Rule 7: Start submitting immediately

1. Your journalism journey encourages you to think of yourself as a freelancer BEFORE being awarded your qualification. I push and push you to submit to publications before you win your qualification.
2. Do not wait until the end of the course to start submitting. Overcome your natural fear of rejection and start submitting your best work to your target publications from now on.

If you tell someone: "I'm a freelance journalist and I'm researching and writing an article on (XXX) and will be submitting it to National Geographic", there's no lie if you are in fact doing those actions.

Reprinted from The Wonderful World of Journalism. Written in the spirit of Simon Townsend's journalism craft advice. Visit simontownsendjournalist.com for the full archive.