

SAMPLE SOP FOR DIPLOMA IN JOURNALISM

Books are said to be the companion of the lonely, and the best asset for the wise. From childhood, books have been my favorites. The earliest books accessible to me were from my father's collection at our house. When I got initiated into reading, those which were interesting and intelligible to me were his old English textbooks. This exposure to English books created in me a predisposition for both the language and its literature. Although I enjoyed reading in my native language, the process was predominantly through the Anglian tongue. This was further reinforced by the fact that English being a global language offered much more variety with regards to genres and themes.

Growing up as an avid reader, my decision to opt for a BA in English Language and Literature was categorical. I joined the esteemed English and Foreign Languages University in Hyderabad. This doled up the opportunity to extend my linguistic prowess through three semesters each of Spanish and Japanese language studies. Although my reading proficiency in both these languages is, at best, at an early intermediate level, it enabled me to enjoy the works of Márquez, Neruda, and Murakami, among others, the way they intended.

The essence of skill acquisitions largely lies in watching and imitating. Being a voracious reader, my primary means of self-expression took place by putting my thoughts on paper in an attempt to emulate the writers I admire. I realized that my flair for the craft when I started winning prizes at the school level. Later, I explored writing for a broader audience through a blog. It was equally daunting and fascinating to have a global, although small-sized, audience who was not hesitant to be radically honest when it comes to giving feedback. While some praises made me feel on top of the world, the harsh criticism could pull me back down to earth in an instant. However, combined with the creative writing lessons from my degree curriculum, I got getting better as a writer each day.

After completing my degree, I joined a publication house as a junior editor cum translator. After two years, I decided to leave the job as it does not allow much creative freedom. By this time, I had also developed a passion for activism. The subsequent year, I spent a significant amount of time working with social welfare organizations, arranging campaigns and other events. This allowed me to meet people from different walks of life. Many among such people were from the press and media. I realized the newfound appetite for social action and my writing skills perfectly intersect at a career in journalism. Rightly, I wanted to start with an academic course before entering the professional world of news reporting.

I decided to learn from outside the country as it can give me some international exposure as well. Canada was one of the top choices as my destination for education. As a nation that holds high the right to speech and expression, it happens to be the best academic destination to learn journalism. Born and brought up in a country that puts press freedom on a pedestal, I know that this is an essential criterion for effective practicing of journalism. The low educational expenses and the welcoming society convinced me to opt for Canada for pursuing higher degrees.

The Diploma in Journalism at Carleton University perfectly suits my requirements. The program encompasses all modern facets of journalism like mobile journalism and hyperlocal reporting. It was satisfying indeed to find that the course is inclusive of emerging trends like slow journalism which focuses on providing detailed case studies and is based on solid facts as opposed to the popular, and despicable, style of sensationalism. I am confident that this course will give me the right footing in my desired choice of profession.

After completing my education in Canada, I will return to India to start my life as a professional journalist. I wish to start by working as a reporter in one of the local media houses. Later, I will make my way into the national dailies like The Hindu. In the long run, I wish to be a correspondent for reputed news agencies like Reuters. I am confident that this course will enable me to realize my professional dreams with confidence.

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