



#### Job Situation

Busy news room. Out around town. Computers, faxes, phones. Dealing with public. Can be hectic. Deadline pressures. Reporting to editor. Flexible hours, on call.

#### Weekly Hours of Work

35

#### Overtime

As required

#### Monthly Salary

\$2,400

#### Student Loan – Owing

\$15,000

#### Student Loan – Monthly Payment

\$215

#### Duties

Investigate news. Write news and feature articles. Interview informants. Maintain files.

#### Prospects

Regular columnist. Editor. Writer for magazines, non-fiction books or documentary film. Reporter in other media. Resource person.

#### Job Title

## Newspaper Reporter

#### National Occupational Classification (NOC)

5123

#### Job Description

Your day usually starts with coffee at your desk while you catch up with the news service printouts, phone messages and e-mail that have accumulated since yesterday afternoon. You make some corrections to your "To Do" list and work at your computer 'til the editor rounds everyone up for the morning meeting. At the meeting you get your hard news assignments for the day, turn over final drafts for editorial approval, propose new story ideas and contribute facts or ideas to help other reporters with their assignments.

When the meeting is over everyone scatters to get working on their news assignments for the 4:00 p.m. deadline. Your beat is human interest and current affairs. You have also built a niche by suggesting feature article assignments in the ethnic and academic communities, and anything to do with social problems, illegal immigrants and organized crime or gangs. You know where your talents lie.

You can slide unobtrusively into a situation without putting people's backs up and have brought in excellent stories that a more aggressive reporter wouldn't get close to. Contacts and sources have to be thoroughly checked out. You are paid to report facts and you have to protect your own credibility. You are a person of integrity. If necessary you will kill a story rather than betray an understanding. Sources are more willing to divulge their information to you because they know they can count on you.

Some of your work is really exciting, but it's based on methodical research and lots of footwork. On your own time, you have become very skilled with your broadcast-quality video camera and have joined a video producers co-op. They offer workshops and short courses, rent editing suites and lighting equipment, and sell videotape at wholesale prices. You've learned a lot from the more experienced members and are working on a documentary about life in the back streets of the city.