

## Interview Assessment #5

**Name of Professional:** Simone Carter

**Profession:** Staffed Writer

**Company:** Dallas Observer

**Date of Interview:** 10/3/2020

### **Assessment:**

A few weeks ago I had the opportunity to interview Simone Carter, a staffed reporter for The Dallas Observer. I had gotten in touch with Ms. Carter through one of my earlier interviews with Garrett Gravely. She is a friend of Garrett's who helped him get his start in journalism by giving him connections with the Observer. She is a graduate of The University of North Texas and has a BA in journalism. Ms. Carter got her start at Origami Records in Los Angeles, where she initially started out as a sales clerk but soon began writing record reviews and was published in different music outlets in the greater Los Angeles area. Soon after she came to Dallas Texas and had begun interning at the Dallas Morning News and The Denton Record-Chronicle. While having her internships she also worked as a freelance writer and was published by companies such as Frisco-Style, Fort-Worth Weekly, and The Dallas Observer. She now writes full time for The Observer where she focuses on political and social issues affecting the Dallas Fort-Worth area.

In our interview, I asked Ms. Carter what she thought was the hardest part about her job as a staffed reporter, and aside from reaching quick deadlines, she listed the backlash and aggression she's received for her articles from certain readers. She said that since she's begun writing on political events she's received several messages or emails criticizing her work and the topics she writes about. She told me that she expected that when she went into the field but sometimes the hate still gets to her. She makes effort to tune it out and press on. I'd always been worried about potential issues regarding responses to any work I'd do, especially in current times where tensions are so high and people are extremely aggressive then their beliefs are threatened. There have been several instances where either journalists or public figures have been put in danger because they express opinions on issues going on currently, so that's always something scary to think about.

Another thing I discussed with Ms. Carter is how she started to branch out into different topics. When she first began writing she wrote solely music-focused content and record reviews but as she went deeper into her career she started to see different events going on around her and began to write about them. Especially with working with The Dallas Morning News, she was able to have a greater view of reporting for a wide audience and that has greatly helped her further down the line in her career.

One of the last things I had spoken to Ms. Carter about in our interview was where she wants her career to go in the near future. She told me that she is still currently in school at UNT and plans to go long enough so that when she graduates

she'd be able to teach journalism at a collegiate level. I thought this was very admirable of her and related to a previous question I had asked her which was how did she think the career of journalist was fairing currently. She said that she believed there is always a need for journalists and that need will never go away but the problem is that more people need to be passionate about the job and need to start working on it earlier on.

In conclusion, I'm extremely thankful for getting the chance to interview Simone for the ISM program. She's had a very interesting journey throughout her career that I loved learning about and I admire her drive and strength to do her work as well as her plan to hopefully teach journalism in the future.