

## Interview Assessment #1

**Name of Professional:** Avery Dalal

**Profession:** Student Journalist/ ISM Alumni

**Company:** University of Missouri

**Date of Interview:** 10/17/2020

### **Assessment:**

This past weekend I had the opportunity to interview past ISM program Alumni Avery Dalal. When Avery was in ISM he studied multimedia journalism and focused heavily on broadcasting much like I am currently. Avery is currently a senior in college attending the University of Missouri majoring in journalism. In our interview, I wanted to get a few more contacts from Avery to reach out to, learn more about his experiences in ISM, and to see what it's like for a journalist major in college and the work opportunities available at different colleges.

When I first began talking to Avery he brought me through how he got into multimedia journalism. He started out just enjoying the process and idea of filmmaking but once he got into middle school he discovered the possibility of being able to discuss and write about movies, video games, art, etc. for a living. That drove him to look more into the job for his future, he was inspired by people like John Stewart from The Today Show, and ever since he made his way into the field and has made significant progress. While going through his thought process of deciding on journalism he said that he knew early on he didn't want to be stuck at a local newspaper doing small stories and that he wanted to work on big things instead. That's exactly how I feel about getting my start in journalism. I understand that when getting your start in journalism it's important to start out with the grunt work but recently since I've had more freedom to research what I want in ISM and my college classes I'm much more interested in the bigger things going on in the world especially in the sense of the cluster storm that is politics.

Following his backstory for his career choices, I asked Avery to tell me about what he did as his final work assignment. During his time in ISM, the FISD district was in a strange spot and the superintendent decided to resign from his position. Avery planned his entire project to be a documentary-style interview and breakdown of things going on in the district at the time but when he found out that the superintendent had resigned he did a complete 180. He focused his project on the search for the next district superintendent and interviewed different teachers about what they'd want to see in the next one. I was able to read some of the writing and planned he had done for it and from that, I think he really handled the sudden change of plans really well. When I mentioned that to him he told me that that experience really benefited him in his college life because it taught him how to work on a very tight schedule and how to make ends meet even when things aren't exactly what you expected. I think I'm fairly good at sharp turnarounds and working with very little time and from what I've learned in my other

research interviews that's a very important skill to have with specific companies like The Dallas Observer that has weekly publishing.

As we finished the interview I asked Avery for some useful tips and tricks to handle ISM workloads as well as any useful contacts he may still have from his time in the program. He told me that time management and looking ahead is key for staying on track for ISM. I think I've been doing pretty well in regards to that but there have been some weeks where I slack off a little more than others so in the future I will try my best to keep myself from doing that. He also gave me the contact of Zac Crain the senior editor of D Magazine. I reached out to him directly after my interview with Avery and scheduled a meeting with him the following week.

In conclusion, I'm really glad I had the opportunity to speak with Avery and he got even more excited to be in ISM and to continue my career journey as a journalist.