

Hello, People

East Side’s Journalists Visit People Magazine

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Young journalists often think that they’ll never get to meet any real journalists. They don’t know how to reach out to them, and they’re afraid that the real professionals will be too busy to talk to them. This reporter is here to tell you, though, that professionals can be tremendously generous with their time—so you should be unafraid to try to set up a visit. Gather some fellow would-be journalists, and set up a tour.

Recently, the journalists of East Side were given the opportunity to tour the offices of one of America’s most popular magazines, People. Additionally, they were also allowed to sit in on an actual meeting concerning the magazine’s next issue. East Siders witnessed the process of creating an issue of the magazine, learned the complicated, yet necessary, steps needed to get People on the iPad and even stepped into People’s fashion closet! Little did this reporter know that these young journalists would soon do more than witness this process. . . .

Prior to visiting People’s office, the East Side journalists were given a schedule outlining the day. This schedule stated that East Siders would be able to watch a conventional morning meeting. What the schedule did not mention was the fact that the staff of the magazine would ask the young journalists their opinions on the content being covered in the next issue. “What would student readers be interested in knowing more about?” the editor asked, holding her hands ready at her laptop to type in notes. She followed up this question with “How could the magazine capture more young readers’ attention?” and her fingers flew as she recorded the thoughts of her visitors.

The East Side journalists did not hesitate to contribute their thoughts. The staff at People magazine were warm and welcoming and completely disregarded the fact that they were professionals in their field, while the East Side journalists were simply novices. During the staff meeting all journalists were one and the same regardless of age.

After the meeting, the East Siders were taken on a tour of the magazine's offices, where they saw everything from journalists putting together stories, to People's amazing media library, to future obituary stories already put together, waiting to be published should the need arise! While the obituary stories shocked the young journalists, the tour guide assured them it is a necessary precaution should any celebrity suddenly pass away.

The next stop on the tour was People's fashion closet—by far the loudest point of the entire trip. The words “heaven” and “amazing” were not uncommon. Although the journalists were not permitted to touch any of the products, seeing the beautiful fabrics, patterns, shoes, and accessories was beyond good enough. If you picture the clothes in Project Runway, you can picture this scene. The employees in the department most likely went deaf from the shrieking, however they answered questions and explained their roles and how the clothes would be used for the upcoming issues.

The day ended with the students receiving several issues of People magazine, including a special issue devoted solely to the band, One Direction.

The journalists were touched by the generosity of the staff. One journalist, Jamella, stated, “I thought it would be boring, but it was amazing.” Not one journalist disagreed with her. Another writer, Laurie, explained that she “enjoyed the up-close look at the process of creating an issue of the magazine.” She also stated that the visit “inspired” her and “deepened a second passion” she had in journalism—something she hopes to incorporate into her life in the future. All in all, this trip showed that professionals are never too busy to inspire the next generation.