

Emily Jeglum

Hometown: Crosby, ND

School: Divide County Highschool

Internship: The Journal, Crosby, ND



Starting my internship at The Journal, I had no idea what to expect, but there's no regrets on my part. This experience has taught me way more than I could have imagined when first starting out. My expectations were all over the place, the only basis I had was there would be a lot of writing involved, but it's been so much more than just that.

This internship first became a goal of mine to achieve about four years ago, when I watched an upperclassman take on the position and she did amazing. After that I looked for ways that I could get an 'in' at The Journal, including submitting writing I did at the high school for Mr. Norton's class. Who would've known a few years later I would end up writing for the paper after finishing up my sophomore year in the same position.

The opportunity I was given has been an amazing one, and to think at first I was hesitant to accept the offer. Now, that just seems crazy. There is so much about a small town newspaper I never knew, and never would have if I had shied away from this chance. Sometimes, things can get slow and boring, but that gave me time to immerse myself in other aspects of the journalism world. Such as, just sitting around and snooping through Facebook to figure out who anyone is that's mentioned throughout the paper. I really need to get out more.

So much goes on in the little town of Crosby that I didn't know about, let alone the entirety of the county. People collaborate across the board to get our stories out to the public, and keep everyone "in the loop." This leads me to communication, which has been one of the hardest skills to learn ever since I was still in single-digit ages. People have always made me anxious, and working this internship has opened my eyes to just how great (and how frustrating) others can really be.

Picking up the phone and making a call to someone I've never talked to doesn't even seem like a big deal anymore, though I have plenty of friends who would disagree with me on the ease of making phone calls. At first I'd rehearse and rehearse the questions, frying my brain before even dialing the number. Soon enough, that habit was broken, because honestly people couldn't care less how dumb you sound, especially over the phone. Most people understand that I'm sitting in the same boat as them when it comes to talking with strangers.

Most importantly, I've learned to coordinate with my schedule better -- essentially time management skills. That just sounds so cliché, but it's true. That is one of the most valued skills in many workplaces though, and that is something I can take with me wherever I end up in the future. Whether working on some farm, or studying biology in a lab, time management is an invaluable tool.

There is so much more though, like how a small newspaper runs, all the networking and collaboration that goes into creating a successful product, how much work is put into making the little things that most people just skim over, but that'll change for me from now on when I read the paper.

All in all, this was an amazing and beneficial experience. Journalism has always been a huge interest for me, and this summer I actually had that chance to go out there and do that. Sharing people's thoughts and actions across the page for all the readers to see. I did that. And nothing can take away the confidence and skills this internship has given me.