

Is the Palestinian teenager who blows him or herself up in the middle of a crowded street a terrorist, a martyr, a victim, or a little bit of all three? If the European Union bans plasma screen televisions will the result be the saving of electricity and less damage to the earth or will televisions leaking chemicals in landfills ultimately do more damage? As a journalist these are not the questions I want to answer but the ones I want to present.

Five years ago I began studying at George Washington University knowing I wanted to learn about the world and how decisions are made. A degree in political science in the nation's capital was the ideal avenue, but as a sophomore writing for the student newspaper, The GW Hatchet, I found a passion for presenting the news instead of studying how to shape it. In class we discussed the politics of the world from collective action and global warming to bias in the media. At the Hatchet I got to present the issues and as an assistant art editor I got to ask the questions. I continued my political sciences studies while taking classes in the School of Media and Public Affairs, which would lead to the completion of my minor in journalism.

My time at GW flew by and with each passing year came more opportunities. As a junior I studied abroad at the American University of Rome where my professors and classmates were not solely American, and from them I learned politics from a European perspective. Returning from AUR, I began an internship in Senator Edward Kennedy's press office where I saw the intersection of press and politics. As I took on more responsibilities such as helping the senior staff prepare the Senator for Meet The Press and other Sunday talk shows I became certain that journalism was the field I wanted to join. I came away from GW and Washington, DC with a foundation in political science and journalism.

Graduating from George Washington University I moved to New York City where I continued to learn about journalism. I began freelance writing for PG Media and became a contributing writer at OZOLife, and the Eat Well Guide two online environmental magazines where I continue to write weekly travel and food articles. In the fall I began a position as an editorial internship at La Cucina Italiana where I learned about the magazine business from initial article research to discussions about cover designs.

My experiences at GW and throughout the past year allowed me opportunities to learn unique skills while becoming certain I want to be journalist. I love learning about the world, about how a situation unfolds and all views that are involved, and I have had the chance to see the journalism field from many different sides. Quinnipiac University's Master of Science in Journalism program will take everything I have learned to the next level. Giving me the skills to become a professional journalist.