

A Self-Test to Determine your Interest in Reporting

WHAT ARE THE POSITIVES AND NEGATIVES?

A series of statements that relate to court reporting are listed. Rate each statement as a positive or negative statement. If a statement bothers you in any way, or if you have difficulty with a statement, consider it a negative (-). If you have NO problem with the statement, or if it does NOT bother you in any way, consider it a positive (+). Circle the + or - after each statement. Directions for scoring your quiz appear at the end. Circle the first response that comes to your mind. Try to be honest as you respond.

Circle the+ or- for each of the following statements

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Court reporting is a challenging career that will require a great deal of dedication on my part | + - |
| 2. I will probably have to set some priorities if I want to learn court reporting. | + - |
| 3. Court reporting is more than the skill of recording what is being said. It requires learning other academic subjects such as English, medical and legal terminology, and court procedures. | + - |
| 4. To become a competent court reporter, I will probably have to practice at least 3 times a day for the next 2 years. | + - |
| 5. To learn how to become a court reporter, I may have to put some other plans on hold at this particular time. | + - |
| 6. When I become a court reporter, I will probably work for a freelance agency. | + - |
| 7. When I become a court reporter, I will probably work in a courtroom. | + - |
| 8. Court reporting requires a great deal of accuracy and concentration. | + - |
| 9. Court reporters sometimes work under a great deal of pressure and stress. | + - |
| 10. To complete a particular job, I may have to work beyond my normal working hours. | + - |
| 11. As a freelance reporter, I may be required to keep an account of all my expenses and pay self-employment taxes on my income. | + - |
| 12. As a court reporter, I am going to be responsible for producing an accurate transcript of whatever I record. | + - |
| 13. I will be responsible for making sure that the transcript is delivered on time. | + - |
| 14. I will be responsible for the accuracy of the entire record. | + - |
| 15. Occasionally, I will have to ask a witness to speak up, or ask a lawyer to repeat what was said. | + - |
| 16. Some of the testimony that I will be required to record may be graphic in nature. | + - |
| 17. Some of the testimony may be very emotional. | + - |
| 18. Some cases may involve murder, rape, incest, child abuse, spouse abuse, abandonment, pornography, prostitution, drug trafficking, and drug overdose . | + - |
| 19. Once I become a court reporter, I will have to keep up to date with changing technology. | + - |
| 20. I will benefit from joining a court reporting organization that offers seminars and workshops. | + - |
| 21. Court reporters earn a high income, but they work hard for it. | + - |
| 22. The amount of money that I earn will depend on my ability and experience. | + - |

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 23. Beginning reporters usually start at the bottom of the income ladder, and climb up after years of gaining experience. | + - |
| 24. Only about one-third of those who study court reporting complete a program of study. | + - |
| 25. Although learning to become a court reporter may require a great deal of time, energy, and money, the effort will be well worth it in the long run. | + - |

Now, count the number of + and - circled and enter here.

Use the following chart to rate your interest in court reporting.

If you had over 20 positives, you may be very interested in reporting.
 If you had 15-19 positives, you are probably somewhat interested in reporting.
 If you had 8 to 14 positives, you might have a little interest in reporting.
 If you had 0 to 7 positives, you have very little interest in reporting.

SHOULD YOU BECOME A REPORTER?

Do you think you should go into reporting? Only you can answer that question. If you are even slightly interested, we would implore you to investigate, ask questions, read books, conduct interviews, learn anything and everything that you can about the field, and then make your decision after thoroughly talking it over with those closest to you.

To help you decide, you might consider the following questions. Respond to each question by circling Yes or No.

- | | | |
|--|-----|----|
| 1. Do you have a high school diploma or equivalency? | YES | NO |
| 2. Do you have a college degree, or any credit earned for attending college? | YES | NO |
| 3. Are you able to spend at least 3 hours a day practicing and studying without interruption? | YES | NO |
| 4. Can you keyboard, using the standard touch system at 20, 30 words a minute? | YES | NO |
| 5. Are you able to punctuate simple and complex sentences by using commas, semicolons, periods, question marks, quotation marks, and the like? | YES | NO |
| 6. Do you have a good basic vocabulary? | YES | NO |
| 7. Do you understand most words that you hear or read? | YES | NO |
| 8. Can you memorize simple definitions fairly well? | YES | NO |
| 9. Do you take pride in your work? | YES | NO |
| 10. Can you follow basic instructions? | YES | NO |
| 11. Can you follow complex instructions, if you are allowed to ask questions? | YES | NO |
| 12. Can you take criticism? | YES | NO |
| 13. If someone said that you did something wrong, would you try to find out what you did wrong and correct it? | YES | NO |
| 14. Do you have a basic grasp of computers and their operating systems? | YES | NO |
| 15. Are you willing to learn? | YES | NO |
| 16. Do you speak a foreign language? | YES | NO |

- | | | |
|---|-----|----|
| 17. Do you play a musical instrument? | YES | NO |
| 18. Are you curious and inquisitive? | YES | NO |
| 19. Are you patient? | YES | NO |
| 20. Are you consistent? | YES | NO |
| 21. Can you afford the schooling and other expenses of learning to become a court and real time reporter? | YES | NO |
| 22. Can you spend the time required to become a court reporter? | YES | NO |
| 23. Do you have an active imagination? | YES | NO |
| 24. Are you persistent? | YES | NO |
| 25. Can you see yourself as a court or real time reporter in the future? | YES | NO |

Now count the total number of YES and NO responses, and enter here:

Use the following chart to help determine whether you should become a court and real time reporter.

If you had 21 to 25 YES responses, you might consider studying immediately.
 If you had 11-20 YES responses, you might consider beginning soon.
 If you had 6-10 YES responses, you may or may not consider studying.
 If you had 0 to 5 YES responses, you might reconsider your career goals.

WILL YOU SUCCEED?

For fun, let's use your scores in the previous quizzes, and apply them to an arbitrary "success scale". Use the following formula to determine your success score and then apply it to the success scale. Remember, this is not a scientific test, and in no way predicts the success or failure of any one individual.

- For every positive *and* yes response, give yourself 2 points.
 For every negative *and* no response, give yourself 1 point.
 Number of positive *and* yes responses=____ x2=_ _
 Number of negative *and* no responses=____ x1=____ _

- Subtract your negative/no score from your positive/yes score to obtain your success score:
 Positive/yes score=____ _
 Negative/no score=____ _
 Success score= _____

3. Apply your success score to the following success scale

<u>SCORE</u>	<u>YOUR SUCCESS PROBABILITY</u>
90 or above	Super successful
76-89	Exceedingly successful
61-75	Very successful
46-60	Somewhat successful
31-45	Sort of successful
16-30	Maybe successful

Will you succeed at becoming a court and real time reporter? Many variables go into answering that question – your motivation, drive, enthusiasm, circumstances, and a myriad of other considerations. Only you can determine whether you will succeed.