

anna marie boone

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Dear Alexandra Alonso,

I never expected to be a journalist. As a kid, I was constantly drawing, playing outside or writing fiction stories.* I didn't grow up reading newspapers, or watching television news every night with my family. I was always too busy starting — and almost immediately abandoning — a million projects and hobbies, all lost along the way when another idea would pop into my head.

* almost always revolving around some type of talking animal

When I joined my high school newspaper, I had the old-school journalist picture in my head: fedora, cigarette smoke in the air, furious banging on a typewriter, mean editors. Instead, I was put in an atmosphere that challenged me and changed every day. I thrived. I never wanted to leave. Seven years later, and I still feel the same way.

The newsrooms changed, the journalists I worked with changed, what I was doing changed**, but my love for what I was doing never did. In journalism, I found the perfect outlet for everything I wanted to do as a kid. I can do daily stories, I can work on deadline, and every day I get the chance to try something new and completely different than what I did the day before.***

** writing → designing → illustrating → graphics → multimedia → back to design

I am most interested in working as a graphics or design intern. I have a background in both areas, and would appreciate any opportunity to keep doing what I love, all while learning as much as I can from professionals working in the same career I hope to have one day. When the Aurora theater shooting happened, I turned to the Denver Post for coverage. The front pages that followed after the massacre stopped me in my tracks, especially the "Everybody is Hurting" page. The clean design, which gave the same amount of attention to every victim, was a choice I respect and think was extremely important. It was during this time that I knew I wanted to apply to work for the Post.

*** not that I don't love long term stories and graphics projects

I think graphics and design are as important to stories as reporting and photography. There are many ways to tell a story, and just because the average 500-word article is the most common doesn't mean it's always the best option. I heard someone say once you have to listen to what the story wants to be, not what you are trying to make it be. This thinking is now my personal motto. Some stories are best served as only photographs, some as a graphics, some as videos and some as traditional written stories. You just have to listen to what the story wants to be, and if you work with this in mind you will be able to show the information in the best way possible for readers.

In the newsroom, I bring a new perspective to the table. I have worked in almost every position in the newsroom from copy to design to digital, which allows me to understand and keep everyone's perspective in mind when working on projects and communicating with editors. I know how to help show stories to be the best they can be in print, and then rethink and shape them in a new way for the web. Everything I do, I do with everything I have. I'm a naturally competitive person****, and I'm always working and pushing others to help make everything the best it can be.

**** in a good way, i swear

Sincerely,

Anna Marie Boone

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