

# B4U4 My First Work Assignment “Unforgettable”, says new journalist Reading





### AN INTERVIEW

Pausanias, who was a **Greek** writer about 2,000 years ago, has come on a **magical** journey on March 18th, 2007 to find out about the present-day Olympic Games. He is now interviewing Li Yan, a **volunteer** for the 2008 Olympic Games.



**P:** My name is Pausanias. I lived in what you call "Ancient Greece" and I used to write about the Olympic Games a long time ago. I've come to *your* time to find out about the present-day Olympic Games because I know that in 2004 they were held in my **homeland**. May I ask you some questions about the modern Olympics?

By asking prepared and unprepared questions, Pausanias learns **the similarities and differences between the ancient and modern Olympics.**

### MY FIRST WORK ASSIGNMENT

#### **"Unforgettable", says new journalist**

Never will Zhou Yang (ZY) forget his first assignment at the office of a popular English newspaper. His discussion with his new boss, Hu Xin (HX), was to **strongly influence** his life as a journalist.

**HX:** Welcome. We're **delighted** you're coming to work with us. Your first job here will be an assistant journalist. Do you have any questions?

Zhou Yang learns **how to be a successful journalist**.

**skills/~~experiences~~/qualities/advice**



1. According to HX, what will help to make ZY a successful journalist?

2. Why do you think is teamwork significant?

Teamwork helps turn a green hand into an experienced journalist.

3. What is this part mainly about?

To be a successful journalist, ZY is advised to work in a team, getting **experience and assistance**.

(Line 3-15)

HX: Welcome. We're delighted you're coming to work with us. Your first job here will be an assistant journalist. Do you have any questions?

ZY: Can I go out on a story immediately?

HX: (laughing) That's admirable, but I'm afraid it would be unusual! Wait till you're more **experienced**. First we'll put you as an assistant to an experienced journalist. Later you can cover a story and submit the article yourself.

ZY: Wonderful. What do I need to take with me? I already have a notebook and camera.

HX: No need for a camera. You'll have a professional photographer with you to take photographs. You'll find your colleagues very eager to assist you, so you may be able to concentrate on photography later if you're interested.

ZY: Thank you. Not only am I interested in photography, but I took a course at university to update my skills.

HX: Good.

**work in a team**



1. According to HX, what will help to make ZY a successful journalist ?

2. What do you think helps to cover an accurate story? How?

3. What is this part mainly about?

To be a successful journalist, ZY is advised to cover an accurate story. Having a good "nose" for a story, following some dos and don'ts, and taking notes while listening for detailed facts will help.

(Line 16-29)

ZY: What do I need to remember when I go out to cover a story?

HX: You need to be curious. Only if you ask many different questions will you acquire all the information you need to know. We say a good journalist must have a good "nose" for a story. That means you must be able to assess when people are not telling the whole truth and then try to discover it. They must use research to inform themselves of the missing parts of the story.

ZY: What should I keep in mind?

HX: Here comes my list of dos and don'ts: don't miss your deadline, don't be rude, don't talk too much, but make sure you listen to the interviewee carefully.

ZY: Why is listening so important?

HX: Well, you have to listen for detailed facts. Meanwhile, you should take notes while listening, depending on what the person says.

ZY: But how can I listen carefully while taking notes?

HX: This is a trick of the trade, If the interviewee agrees, you can use a recorder to get the facts straight. It's also useful if a person wants to challenge you. You have the evidence to support your story.

**cover an accurate story**



1. According to HX, what will help to make ZY a successful journalist?

2. What do you think helps to protect HX's story from accusations?

Doing researches and using a record to collect evidence.

3. What is this part mainly about?

To be a successful journalist, ZY is advised to protect a story from accusations. It is essential to do researches and use a record to collect evidence.

(Line 30-41)

ZY: I see! Have you ever had a case where someone accused your journalists of getting the wrong end of the stick?

HX: Yes, but it was a long time ago. This is how the story goes. A footballer was accused of taking money for deliberately not scoring goals so as to let the other team win. We went to interview him. He denied taking money but we were sceptical. So we arranged an interview between the footballer and the man supposed to bribe him. When we saw them together we guessed from the footballer's body language that he was not telling the truth. So we wrote an article suggesting he was guilty. It was a dilemma because the footballer could have demanded damages if we were wrong. He tried to stop us publishing it but later we were proved right.

ZY: Wow! That was a real "scoop". I'm looking forward to my scoop.  
I'll get a scoop too!

HX: Perhaps you will. You never know.

**protect a story  
from accusations**



## Rephrasing

**What will help to make Zhou Yang a successful journalist?**

To be a successful journalist, ZY is advised to work in a team, getting experience and assistance.

To be a successful journalist, ZY is advised to cover an accurate story. Having a good “nose” for a story, following some dos and don’ts, and taking notes while listening for detailed facts will help.

*Capable of uncovering the whole truth, following some dos and don’ts and noting down details while listening will help.*

To be a successful journalist, ZY is advised to protect a story from accusations. It is essential to do researches and use a record to collect evidence.





## Connecting

*To be a successful journalist, Zhou Yang is advised to work in a team, getting experience and assistance. Besides, capable of uncovering the whole truth, following some dos and don'ts and noting down details while listening will also help him cover an accurate story. It is essential to do researches and use a record to collect evidence, which will protect a story from accusations.*





## Further thinking

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# What other qualities do you think make a good journalist?

If you're curious, you'll probably a good journalist because we follow our curiosity like cats. --Diane Sawyer

Journalism, as concerns collecting information, differs little if at all from intelligence work. --Vladimir Putin

I'm not rational(理性的) enough to be a good journalist. --Jim Harrison

I've learned in my years as a journalist that when a politician says 'That's ridiculous' you're probably on the right track. --Amy Goodman

If you are a reliable, honest journalist, sources will open up and trust you and share good information. --Wolf Blitzer

I started off as a journalist when I was young and I did not get paid unless I wrote three stories a day. --Ryan Murphy

As a journalist, one tends to think there's nothing off limits. --Peter Jennings





**In summary,  
qualities like**

curious, reliable and honest personality,  
intelligence(higher level of education),  
rationality and objective attitude,  
sceptical wisdom and good communication skills,  
endeavor and efforts,

**and** enthusiasm for journalism

**are essential to make a good journalist.**





## Critical thinking

**Of all the qualities provided below, which three are the most important to make good journalists?**

concise, patient, imaginative, well-organized, technically good, polite, honest, truthful, thorough, creative, curious, admirable, careful, gifted, professional

*Personally, of all the qualities, good journalists are expected to be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, which, to some degree, contributes to making good journalists.*

*Firstly, \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Secondly, \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Finally, \_\_\_\_\_.*

*In summary, \_\_\_\_\_.*





## A possible version

Personally, of all the qualities, good journalists are expected to be cooperative, sceptical, and thorough, which, to some degree, contributes to making good journalists.

*Firstly*, to work in a team and get along well with colleagues is a must. They're eager to assist you, which may benefit you a lot. *Secondly*, it couldn't be better if journalists can have a good "nose" for a story and get the hang of a trick of trade. It requires them to assess whether people are telling the whole truth and then try to discover it. *Finally*, when they go out to cover a story, chances are that they may get into accusations if they don't plan carefully. To avoid this dilemma, it is a good idea to prepare a recorder to keep the evidence.

In summary, there's a long way to go to become good journalists, but, cooperation, scepticism, and thoroughness outweigh the rest.







## Assignment

**Write a passage on three qualities of making a successful photographer in around 120 words.**





## A possible version

Personally, of all the qualities, successful photographers are expected to be passionate, professional and prepared, which, to some degree, contributes to the making successful photographers.

*Firstly*, to have a passion for capturing moments on camera **is a must**. Your genuine and keen interest will sustain you strive to learn everything you possibly can about it, **which may benefit you a lot**. *Secondly*, **it wouldn't be better** if you possess excellent knowledge of photography and the equipment being used. **It requires** you to get the hang of such concepts as lighting, stability, focusing and others, which can be acquired through learning but mastered with constant hands-on learning experience. *Finally*, **when** you go out to take photographs, **chances are that** you may get into a situation where the memory card is full. **To avoid this dilemma, it is a good idea to** prepare a spare one to avoid missing the important and memorable shots.

In summary, there's a long way to go to become good photographers, but, passion, profession and preparation outweigh the rest.

