

## How Do You Become a Weather Person?

While it looks like your TV weatherman has the easiest job on television you can be assured that he has had to do many things in order to get his position. Delivering weather on the news takes a lot more than just knowledge of weather; it also takes stage presence, personality and talent! If you are interested in becoming a TV weatherman, here are some of the important things you need to know.



The first piece of advice is to gain as much knowledge of meteorology as you can. This can commence in middle and high school. Taking extra science courses and learning about weather prediction is a good way to round out your knowledge. When you get to college, you can pursue a degree in meteorology although it may be better to major in atmospheric science, which is a broader and more complete field of study. This will entail a great deal of scientific knowledge with physics, math and chemistry. You will also learn a great deal about aeronautic and planetary involvement in the weather as well as be trained to understand the elements of the atmosphere the affect the Earth's surface.

While many colleges do not offer strictly a meteorology degree, a few have programs geared specifically towards broadcast meteorology. This will help you to learn the broadcast and acting part of the job as well. You will also learn a lot about how TV programs are filmed and recorded, which can help you to get your foot in the door at

a local station. You should also consider taking extensive computer science and technology classes as weather prediction and presentation is becoming more technologically advanced as time goes on.

Once you graduate, the next step is to find an internship with a local TV station. Sometimes they are paid, and other times they are not. You may find that you are doing research behind the scenes or creating computer images for the weather segment. This will give you the first hand knowledge you need as well as offer you exposure to people who are in a position to hire you at some point. Learning from the pros is perhaps the best way! During your internship, hard work, dedication to task, motivation, perseverance and plenty of personality are needed to put you in the front running for an on air job. Most meteorologists start out working for small stations in small towns before becoming the weather anchors for stations in large cities. You have to be willing to remain flexible and to continue to move until you find the position of your dreams.

The good news is that TV meteorologists are paid very well. They may start out in the 30-45 thousand dollar range, but once they land a job for a major network can make as much as \$300 thousand dollars per year. If you love weather, you can also pursue a plethora of other interesting jobs that involve weather within the military, forensic meteorology, air quality agencies, aerospace companies, national weather services and other media weather providers. When it comes to weather reporting, the sky is the limit!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### How Do You Become a Weather Person? - Quiz

1. What is meant by the words "stage presence & personality?"
  - a. able to command a TV audiences interest and attention
  - b. able to look good in a suit
  - c. able to understand the weather
  - d. able to look good on the state
  
2. What is the study of weather called?
  - a. weatherotomy
  - b. science
  - c. meteorology
  - d. aerospace
  
3. The phrase "get your foot in the door" in the passage means what?
  - a. get the job of your dreams
  - b. spend time visiting with TV stations
  - c. start in a low position and work your way up
  - d. be introduced to the weatherman
  
4. What would you consider a major TV network?
  - a. ABC
  - b. CBS
  - c. NBC
  - d. FOX
  - e. All of the above
  
5. In order to be a meteorologist, which field of study should you be interested in?
  - a. language arts
  - b. reading
  - c. science
  - d. history
  
6. Which of the following is having an impact on the field of meteorology?
  - a. computers and technology
  - b. global warming and hurricanes
  - c. the economy
  - d. NASA

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### **How Do You Become a Weather Person? – Free Response Quiz**

- 1. What are some of the perks of being a TV weatherman?**
  
- 2. Do you think that the weatherman is an important part of a news broadcast? Why or why not?**
  
- 3. Why do you think that it is important that someone interested in pursuing a TV weather job have a lot of personality?**
  
- 4. Do you think that you would be a good weatherman for your local news station? Why or why not?**
  
- 5. Think of some ways that the military in the United States might need to have people working for them who know about the weather?**
  
- 6. If you wanted to be a weatherman, what are some things you could do right now to help you out?**
  
- 7. Would you be willing to be an “unpaid” intern at a major news station after you graduated college in order to ‘hopefully’ get a job in the future? Why or why not?**
  
- 8. Why is knowing the weather ahead of time important?**

## **How Do You Become a Weather Person? – Answer Key**

- 1. a**
- 2. c**
- 3. c**
- 4. e**
- 5. c**
- 6. a**