

'Lived experience': finally, a disability reporter who has a disability

Level: Elementary

1 Warmer

Choose the correct answers.

1. ABC is the public news network in **America** / **Australia**.
2. The public news broadcaster in the UK is the **BBC** / **NBC**.
3. CNN stands for **Cable** / **Canadian** News Network.
4. RAI is the national public broadcasting company of **Spain** / **Italy**.
5. The world's first television station was launched in 1928 in the **UK** / **USA**.

2 Key words

Complete the sentences using these key words from the text. The paragraph numbers will help you.

blind braille disability indigenous journalist

1. _____ people cannot see. (para 1)
2. _____ is a reading system for visually impaired people that uses small raised marks that they feel with their fingers. (para 1)
3. A/an _____ is someone who reports the news for a newspaper or radio or TV station. (para 2)
4. A/an _____ is a limit in society faced by people who have physical or mental differences. (para 3)
5. _____ people are the people who lived in a place for a very long time before other people came to live there. (para 3)

attitude diversity ethnic relevant talent

6. A/an _____ group is a group of people who have the same culture and traditions. (para 3)
7. _____ is the fact that very different people exist within a group or place. (para 3)
8. A/an _____ is a natural ability for being good at a particular activity. (para 4)
9. If something is _____, it has a direct connection with the things people are talking about. (para 4)
10. A/an _____ is someone's opinions or feelings about something. (para 5)

'Lived experience': finally, a disability reporter who has a disability

Level: Elementary

Amanda Meade

2 January, 2021

- 1 Nas Campanella is one of the reporters who works for the Australian Broadcasting Company (the ABC). She has worked there for almost ten years and has been a newsreader for seven and a half years. She is also blind. She cannot read braille so she uses aural technology to read.
- 2 She believes that she is able to understand people with different disabilities better than many other journalists because she is blind. She also wants to change the way TV news programmes report stories about people with disabilities and to give them the chance to tell their own stories.
- 3 Only 4.7% of staff at the ABC are people with a disability, 9.4% are people from a different culture or speaking a different language, and 2.8% are indigenous Australians. There is not much ethnic diversity at the ABC or on other TV networks, where presenters are mostly white. The ABC news executive Gavin Fang's job is to make the ABC news division "look and sound like Australia".
- 4 The presenters of the main TV shows are white but the diversity of reporters and presenters on ABC TV is increasing. Recently the journalist Iskhandar Razak, who was born in Singapore, became a co-host on ABC News Breakfast. Fang says it's important to develop the talent of people like Razak. "Having more diverse journalists makes our stories better and makes them more relevant to the widest audience," he said.
- 5 During the Melbourne lockdown in 2020, TV audiences met the young reporter Elias Clure for the first time. He did live reports on the ABC news channel. His family is African-American but Clure grew up in Australia and started as an ABC junior who wanted to change attitudes. "I agree with the ABC's values but I also strongly believe that its programmes can be more diverse," Clure said.
- 6 Clure reported on the Black Lives Matter protests in Melbourne and wrote about the racism he still experiences. "I don't like always seeing white people report on race," he says. "White journalists can do a great job but I just don't think they have the same understanding. There is also a lack of diversity in news coverage in general, although the ABC is trying to solve this problem."

© Guardian News and Media 2021

First published in *The Guardian*, 02/01/2021

'Lived experience': finally, a disability reporter who has a disability

Level: Elementary

3 Comprehension check

Are these statements true (T) or false (F) according to the text? Correct the false statements.

1. Nas Campanella has been a newsreader for ten years.
2. She is blind and uses aural technology to read.
3. Most of the staff at the ABC have a disability.
4. Presenters at the ABC and on other TV networks are mostly white.
5. Elias Clure grew up in America.
6. He believes that white journalists can do a good job.

4 Using key language

Complete the questions using these prepositions. Then answer the questions.

on of with in about to

1. Elias Clure grew up _____ Australia. Where did you grow up?
2. Are most news programmes relevant _____ you? Why? Why not?
3. Do you watch TV programmes _____ different countries? Why? Why not?
4. Do you believe everything you hear _____ TV news programmes? Why? Why not?
5. When you are discussing the news _____ your friends, do you usually all agree? Why? Why not?
6. Do you think there is a lack _____ diversity on TV in your country? Why? Why not?

5 Discussion

Answer the questions. Give reasons for your answers.

- Would you like to work as a news reporter?
- Do you have the talent to work as a TV presenter?
- What is the best job on television?
- How could TV be more diverse?

6 In your own words

Think about the TV programmes in your country and how diverse they are. Make a list of the programmes that are very diverse and the programmes that are not diverse enough. Then write a short paragraph (75–100 words) explaining the good things and the bad things that TV programmes do, with examples.