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Interview Questions

**Q & A with NBC12 Reporter/Digital Writer Terrance Dixon**

**Q1: Mr. Dixon, you are currently a TV reporter for NBC 12 news, what is it like working for such a huge platform as NBC?**

**A:** Honestly it’s cool and each day is different. No day is ever the same. For me, my beat is like a good news life style so I only do fun positive stories. So for me, I get to tell other people’s stories and put a smile on their face compared to the normal and negative things happening in the world. There are typical things that are in the news such as shootings or bad things that happens compared to typical fluffy stuff or a new business opening up or maybe like breaking a school record, a feel-good story. I love telling other people’s stories just to see them smile because it’s never about us, it is always about y’all. It’s just great to have a platform to share other people’s stories. It doesn’t matter how big or small it is platform wise because it’s not my story, it’s your story so I obviously want to do the best of my ability to tell your story. I wouldn’t say pressure, but there is just a race against the clock because you have a deadline every day so that is some pressure for you right there. Say my interview cancels on my last minute, then I’m scrambled trying to find someone to replace it, trying to meet deadlines and find someone somewhere to still tell the story. I wouldn’t say pressure, but it’s the race against the clock that’s nerve wracking.

**Q2: Outside of your job with NBC 12, you currently have a podcast called “In the mix” which gives all the updates on the latest trending topics in sports and entertainment. What was the creation of that idea for your podcast like?**

**A:** It started off as a podcast actually, so I was actually a person that was afraid of myself on camera back in the day because I just thought that I wasn’t good enough, truth be told, because you are your worst critic, and I was just nervous. I don’t have the accent anymore, but I was from the country and had a strong country accent and I was just like I’m going to start a podcast, so that’s kind of how that blossomed. Cardi B actually retweeted it one day and it went viral which was pretty cool. Then, I said enough is enough, I’m going to take a leap of faith and go on camera and just do it. From there, I started having fun with it and got my confidence up and I’m glad I did because now I got some awards from doing my reporting so you are your worst critic, but you can do anything you put your mind to. Now, I just enjoy doing it and have fun with it. It’s something I do for fun. Some people reach out to me to do some partnerships. I just wanted something that talked about the latest trends and it was me and one of my other friends where I was pushed to do YouTube with her, and when she couldn’t do it anymore, I asked can we do this alone? Who wants to talk to podcasts alone? No offense to anyone who does it. I just sent her a bunch of ideas and asked what she liked. I had a little intro for it and it was kind of corny but it was cool.

**Q3: What steps did you take to make yourself comfortable in your job atmosphere?**

**A:** Well for me, I was originally a photographer, so kind of like a camera man, and then I moved my way up to being a reporter. I’m a digital reporter and TV reporter so I wear a lot of hats. For me, I’m actually goofy so I kind of just position myself into that role with my fun personality. I kind of always had a natural kind of fun energy, I’m goofy and corny, I am who I am. The role just kind of fell into my lap and it fits me, so I get to be myself and adjust to tell people’s stories and having fun with it. I do out of the box stories, so I just literally go out there and have fun.

**Q4: Which one do you prefer? Do you prefer being behind the camera or in front of the actual camera reporting?**

**A:** For me, I enjoy being in front because I have a lot of fun with my stories. Not too many of my stories are boring, well, COVID is now because everything is revolved around that, but pre-COVID, I enjoyed being in front of it because for example, I did a story of a kid in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at the time when he was four years old, I’m sorry he was seven years old, but he was signed as a four year old and they called him Baby Steph Curry; He shoots threes from the volleyball line at seven years old and I saw him on that story and played a shooting competition with him, and the first time I beat him and the second time he beat me and during that, it went viral and Steph Curry saw it so we flew him out. It was court side and everything. Just having fun with stories like that and me being a huge basketball person as my passion so just throwing that into the story mixed in with him just had a good time. I kind of enjoy being in front of the camera. Having behind the scenes is kind of cool too because I do everything by myself, so I write, shoot, edit, so I still have the passion for being creative with the camera and having a creative eye. I enjoy shooting stuff as well and editing so they kind of both have their pros, all depending on what it is.

**Q5: So speaking with COVID and things, when COVID kind of hit and even like, as Kobe kind of went on with the con part coming up with stories and like, you know, creating those packages and things that you had to make.**

**A:** Yes, when COVID hit, some of the traditional good news and lifestyle stories weren’t there as much because all the businesses were closing so it was kind of tough because I worked to be a camera man and helped some other people out, since there were still some days doing a good news story. It’s been challenging, I guess you could say. We had to all pivot change. At first we couldn’t do in-person interviews anymore, we did strictly zoom. Everybody was sharing the same video using the same stuff, so it was kind of getting repetitive. But we all made do and now we can still go out and interview people in public now and just hold a stick to talk to somebody. Our job has been strict too like they don’t want to get anyone sick as well so we work remotely, like I don’t even go into the station. I have my gear at home and, like when the pandemic happened, all my scripts were prerecorded so I would shoot my live shot in front of my TV or I’d go to my front yard and do stuff like communicate in front of the TV or put my laptop to USB, I had airplay on my phone, so I connected it to the TV and put something behind me.

**Q6: So what would you say is the goal that you're trying to reach like with your YouTube and things?**

**A:** My 1,000 subscribers. I just want to keep building to the point where I get a lot of audience and I would love for it to be like stuff you see on social media. You can do all this with your cell phone, before I even started my YouTube because I had been doing camera work so much, iPhones are the most creative thing. A lot of people think you need an $1,000 camera or this type of lens, but with an iPhone, you can shoot everything with that. No one knows I shoot with iPhones, I told them I shoot with an iPhone and they were like for real and said shut up, I’m like no, for real. You can do all this with your iPhone. There are a lot of free platforms. The only thing stopping you is you, so that’s my biggest advice to people is to just do it. You got an idea? Do it. Take a leap of faith.