

Famous Journalist

Journalism is a subjective topic. Many people have different opinions on important subjects, so a journalist trusted by one person won't be trusted by another. The very best journalists try to present facts rather than opinions, which makes it harder to argue against them. Whether they are always respected or not, some journalists become famous for their work.

Louis Theroux

Born in 1970, Louis Theroux is a famous journalist and documentary maker. He began his career reporting for TV Nation in the USA. His documentaries for the BBC are famous for covering unusual or divisive topics in a sensitive and understanding manner. He has often said that he tries to bring interesting people's stories in front of people who might not know they exist. He has won many awards for his documentaries and is respected across the world.

Christiane Amanpour

Amanpour was born in London in 1958. She studied journalism in the United States after growing up in both Iran, where her father was from, and England. Her father was a wealthy airline executive but lost both his job and his fortune after the Iranian Revolution in 1979. She fled Iran when war broke out.

Amanpour's journalism is widely respected. She has worked for the US news network CNN since 1983. She has worked as a correspondent (somebody who reports on the news from a location) and an anchor (the person who sits at the news desk and reads the news).

She reported on the revolutions in Europe during 1989, on the Persian Gulf War in 1990 and interviewed general Ratko Mladic in Bosnia. He would later go on to be found guilty of war crimes. She earned a reputation for being fearless by reporting from extremely hostile regions during the Gulf and Bosnian wars.



Clare Hollingworth

Clare Hollingworth was a famous British journalist who was working as a rookie journalist for The Daily Telegraph in 1939. Whilst travelling from Poland to Germany, reporting on the rising tensions in Europe, she spotted German forces gathering on the border to invade Poland. She reported this and, in doing so, became the first journalist in the world to report the outbreak of World War II. It became known as the “scoop of the century”. At the time, she’d been a working journalist for less than a week.

A few days later, whilst in Germany, she called the British Embassy in Poland to tell them that Germany was officially at war. They didn’t believe her at first, so she held the phone out of the window so that they could hear the soldiers.

She spent the war reporting across Europe, gathering more exclusive stories. After the war, she travelled to Egypt, Turkey and Greece to report. Female reporters weren’t considered official at the time, so she struggled to get access to important people. However, she did become the first reporter to interview the Shah of Iran.

Hollingworth went on to report on various conflicts around the world, including the Vietnam War in the 1960s. She was awarded an OBE in 1982 and died in 2017.

INFERENCE FOCUS

1. Why do you think people might be willing to be interviewed by Louis Theroux? Use evidence from the text.
2. Why might Christiane Amanpour’s career have been influenced by her past?
3. Why might some people consider Clare Hollingworth to have been lucky?
4. What evidence in the text shows that she wasn’t lucky, but was a diligent journalist?

VIPERS QUESTIONS

V

Which word describes somebody as being “not afraid of anything”?

R

Who first spotted that Germany was going to war?

R

Where did they spot it?

V

What do you think a “scoop” is in this context?

S

What links Amanpour and Hollingworth?