

I spent this past summer in Music City—Nashville, Tennessee—where I was lucky enough to intern with *American Songwriter* magazine, whose office is located directly on the famous Music Row. During my two months there, I learned the inner-workings of a publication well as developed a greater knowledge of the music world. I improved my customer service skills through communicating with customers over the phone and via e-mail. In addition, I spent a lot of time practicing my computer skills by entering and editing subscriber information in an online database. Although the beginning of my summer was occupied mostly by these duties and others similar, I was later trusted with heavier tasks that I found very fulfilling.

I was often asked to transcribe interviews with up-and-coming artists recorded on a hand-held recording device. I was intrigued by the words I typed and the profound insight of these talented musicians and lyricists—like I had a “sneak peak” of their artistry secrets. My eyes were opened up to the inner-workings of a publication through the transcription task as well. My high point of the summer came with the duty of carrying out an interview with a folk artist named Adam Faucett. Being asked to do this meant I had established myself as competent and hard working, which resulted in my feeling incredibly accomplished. Although I usually consider myself personable and have no trouble expressing myself on paper, I have never prided myself on my speaking skills so I was open to the practice. To hear Adam as well as read about other artists’ experiences with writing and its way of conveying stories and emotion was inspirational to me, a firm believer in the written word.

Having this internship experience behind me, my career goals of being a lawyer are certainly stronger. I feel that the journalism world is much akin to the legal world in that words (both written and spoken) are of the utmost importance and must always be carefully arranged to communicate a desired message. I am thankful for my time in Nashville and I feel indebted and entirely grateful to the scholarship committee that made this opportunity a reality.