

# MY CAREER STORY

FALL 2019 | WWW.BRIGHTFUTURESPRESS.COM

## Meet Katiana Krawchenko

**TV News Producer**

Covering White House  
news as it happens



## Joining the family business...

Both of my parents were reporters so, at first, I wanted to have a different career. Who wants to do what their parents do. Right? I toyed with the idea of becoming a plastic surgeon like my friend's dad. But when he invited me to watch a procedure, I nearly passed out. That was the end of that idea.

As a kid I often flew alone to visit my grandmother in Canada and was always curious about the adults seated next to me. I'd ask lots of questions and get their opinions about different topics. These were my first interviews.

Politics was also something that interested me from a very young age. When I was nine-years old, the presidential election between George W. Bush and Al Gore was so close that authorities had to recount some of the votes. It was a big story and I remember making up a special news report about it for my mom.

In high school, I started reporting for the school newspaper and by the time I graduated I was editor-in-chief. When it was time to go to college, I followed in my parents' footsteps and pursued a degree in journalism.

## A front seat to history...

In 2012, I was an intern for CBS Radio News and got the chance to attend the primary conventions for both the Republican and Democratic parties. Then I was lucky enough to be sitting just 100 yards away when Barack Obama took the oath of office at his second inauguration. That was when I caught the political bug and knew I wanted to cover politics in my career.

Now I am a television news producer assigned to the White House. It is my job to gather information about newsworthy events--including the President's tweets!--and coordinate with the network, camera crews, and TV correspondents. Our stories are broadcast nationally on TV and online.

My day usually starts at 6 a.m. and we often cover several stories before it ends at 1 p.m. It is a fast-paced job that often requires quick decision-making and complete accuracy. The job takes me wherever the president goes--in the U.S. and around the world. I even once got to fly along with the First Lady on a cross-country trip.

### Fake or Fact?

You hear a lot of talk about fake news these days. Online 24/7 news access and social media make it easier to sneak phony stories into the real news cycle. As an informed citizen, it is up to you to figure out what is fake and what is fact.

See if you spot the fake news stories at <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/ngk-sneak-peek/april-2017/fake-news>.

### Your Career Clues

What adults do you know that have interesting careers? What do they do? Write your answers here:

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### *KATIANA KRAWCHENKO'S CAREER CLUES:*

*My parents were both reporters and became role models for my career.*

*Plus, my early curiosity about politics.*

### My best advice is...

Do even the small jobs perfectly. Lots of times when you do an internship or start out in a new job, you get stuck with tasks that don't seem all that important like making copies and filing.

This is your chance to prove yourself. It shows how well you follow through on instructions and gives you an opportunity to show how efficient you can be. When your bosses see that you do these little jobs well, they know they can trust you with big things.

Also, make sure you are a critical thinker and learn how to figure things out for yourself. This skill helps in any job.