

COURT REPORTER STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Isabel Rivera

Del Mar College
Corpus Christi, Texas

What speed you are in?

I am in the last class: 225's, but I am writing at 180.

How do you think the pandemic has changed your schooling and what have you learned most about yourself during the pandemic?

My school-life during this pandemic flip-flopped. I still have classes to attend, but they're virtual now. A plus side is that I can get a little more sleep since I don't have to wake up as early. I do miss seeing and talking to everyone face-to-face because we would talk about each other's challenges and successes. Now, I feel distant from my classmates since I don't talk to anyone as much as I used to. Another advantage is less time and money spent going to and from school.

I have to be honest; I need to acquire self-discipline. I've realized that I now have to have a schedule for my day, or I may wander and do whatever I feel like and spend too much time on recreation.

What challenges have you had working online during the pandemic?

I have to keep myself motivated amid the isolation. I have not seen any of my professors and classmates in over six months. I also struggle with time-management. I get too comfortable being at home and I have to make myself practice before I play video games. You have to work for your reward. Procrastination is an issue I am continuously working on.

How long have you been in school?

I have been in school for a little over a year. I enrolled at Del Mar College in Fall 2019. I homeschooled during my high school years. I finished early at 15 and went to Del Mar at 16 years of age. I am now 17.



Tell us a little bit about how you passed your speed tests in one semester to earn the scholarship.

I practiced as much as I could. I reminded myself for whom and what I was doing it for. I envisioned my future house, giving my babies (pets) the "best life" I could and all the benefits that the job of a court reporter could do for my life. These motivated me to push on. Focusing on your future life and giving yourself a reason or purpose is the driving force.

Are you interested in court work or taking depositions?

My teacher, Mr. Robert Sadler, advises that I get a variety of experiences "under my belt," which I think is wise. Ultimately, I am interested in depositions and freelance; however, I want to try substituting and take jobs in the courtroom; and possibly, substitute as a captioner as well.

Any advice to other students on how to adapt to remote learning and practicing?

Get to know your strengths and weaknesses. You want to develop your strengths, meanwhile managing your weaknesses. I can't say enough how much you need to practice. I advocate for two hours daily. You can practice in increments, especially if you have a short-attention-span like me or if you're busy. Take advantage of whatever time you have.

Final thoughts...

I am being raised by my paternal grandparents. When I was about 7 years of age, my grandmother attempted to become a court reporter; however, due to health reasons, she had to drop out. She harbored a desire for me to try being a court reporter because she felt the profession of a court reporter was the best-kept secret. As soon as I finished high school, under her direction, I began court reporting school. Ten years later, here I am. She's so proud of my achievements!