

YOUR JOB

Jeanette Christian Caption provider and stenographer

How long have you been on the job: 21 years.

What do you do on the job: I provide instantaneous remote realtime captioning, often referred to as CART. Captions are created for students with hearing impairments in elementary, middle, high school and college settings located in different parts of the United States. The instructor wears a lapel microphone, which feeds into the student's sound card. The audio is digitized and compressed before it is sent over the Internet to the off-site captionist, which is myself. My computer decompresses the audio and transmits the text back to the event site where it is displayed on a computer monitor, a television screen or overhead projection screen.

Remote realtime captions allow students who are hearing impaired the opportunity to receive their education within their home school district or university. This entire process happens in a matter of a few seconds.

I provide remote onsite captions in a variety of other environments such as city council/government meetings,

military meetings, corporate meetings, graduation ceremonies, as well as weddings and funerals.

Likewise, I provide webcasting of quarterly financial earnings calls, via the Internet, for companies located in different parts of the United States. I am also a broadcast captioner projecting captions on the television screen through an encoder/decoder, which is a similar yet different technology.

I am the president and owner of 20/20 Captioning & Reporting, Topeka, which provides verbatim transcripts to the legal community to be used in judicial litigation.

Education, training needed for this job: To satisfy the required education and training, you will need to be a graduate of an accredited court reporting school and have passed the certified shorthand reporter's examination given by your state. It takes at least three years to become a captioner or court reporter. The National Court Reporters Association offers many exams to test your skills, each requiring a higher degree of accuracy and speed. I am currently a certified shorthand



reporter, registered professional reporter, registered merit reporter, certified realtime captioner, certified broadcast captioner and certified cart provider.

Advice you have for others who want this kind of job: In order to achieve state certification, you must be willing to work extremely hard learning the stenographic theory. Once certified, you must be able to think quickly, applying your prior years of training.