



Parents: Check out this high-paying career option for your son or daughter. No high-priced four-year college required!

Dear Music Students and Parents:



Are you really fast at texting? It could be a career!

Imagine “texting” at 225 words per minute and getting paid for it! **That’s what court reporters and captioners do.** Court reporters take down testimony on a steno machine and captioners use the same steno keyboard to live-caption sporting events, TV shows, congressional hearings -- you name it! Imagine yourself in a career with a ringside seat at the best sporting events, the highest profile criminal trials!

Live captioning of news and sports on television is done by court reporters who specialize as captioners, often working from home. You could be captioning the Winter Olympics or the Celtics games. Or you might be a traditional court reporter who preserves the courtroom testimony at Whitey Bulger’s murder trial in Boston. It’s all exciting!



Here’s a fun fact:

Lots of court reporters and captioners have a musical background. So many, in fact, that it’s a statistical anomaly! That means if you play a musical instrument, you can be a court reporter or captioner! (Read the article below and learn about the connection.)

The motor skills needed to master the steno machine keyboard are the same skills that help you to learn an instrument. Plus, the steno shorthand system you learn is based on brief forms (shortcuts) just like the ones you’re used to already: LOL, ROFL, YOLO, BRB, FOMO, GOMB. If you can learn those “briefs”, you can learn the steno shorthand used by court reporters and captioners.

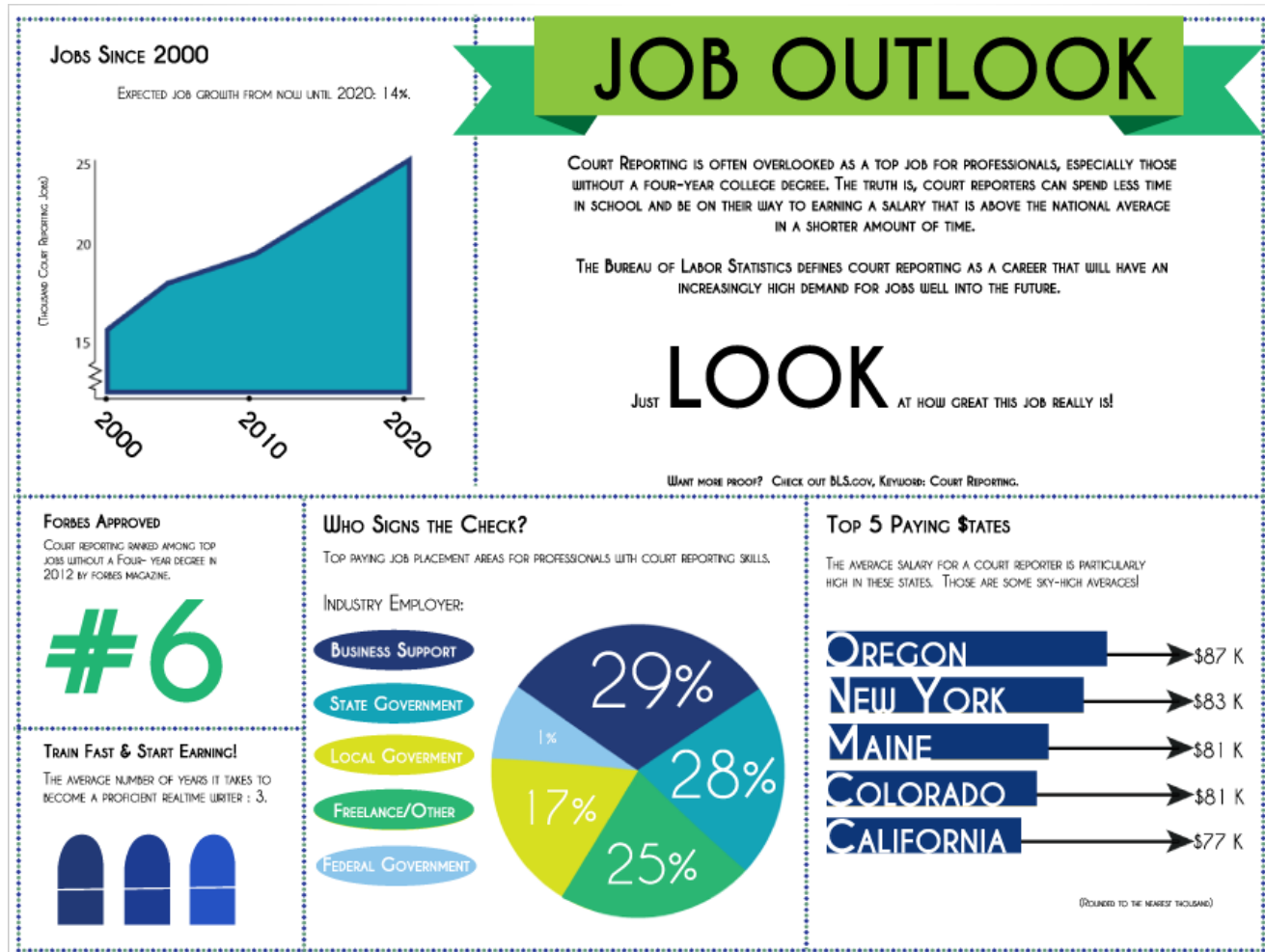
(Include your full name and name of firm and where it is located), Growing up, (List name of instrument if you played one). (Customize the following information as it relates to you.) After high school, she decided to switch keyboards and train on the stenograph machine. It was a match made in heaven! In less than a year, she achieved the graduation speed of 225 words per minute -- and she was on her way to a high-paying career as a court reporter. Nowadays captioning is a career option. (Traditional court reporters work either in a courtroom or are employed as freelancers for hire, working for lawyers in depositions and hearings. The majority of the 18,000 professionals in the National Court Reporters Association work as freelance court reporters -- a field that is growing rapidly. And the demand for trained captioners is huge!)

- Say no to four years of college!**
- Say no to back-breaking student loans!**
- Say no to fruitless job searches!**
- Say yes to a high-paying job in an interesting career that you are uniquely suited for!**



Court reporting is a time-honored and respected profession with a proud 100-year history in the United States. There’s a shortage of steno reporters. Positions are going unfilled, so we need young people coming into the field. We need you! Check out what we do at www.CareersInCourtReporting.Com.

Here's what our research shows about court reporting and captioning careers.



Read this excerpt of a recent article published in the *Journal of Court Reporting*, a National Court Reporters Association publication. Enjoy it! It's pretty cool.

Music to Our Ears

By Linda Smolkin

When kids learn an instrument, teachers sometimes tell them "you're a natural" or "you have a great ear." It's true that many are born with talent, but for most, it's a combination of talent and hard work. In other words, it doesn't come easily. There are endless hours of practice to hone skills and become great musicians — which is also true about court reporting.

So this made us wonder — does it make a difference in how reporters get through school and get a start in the field if they have a musical background? Does playing an instrument help with finger dexterity on a writer? Does the experience of hearing notes, reading music, or playing in a band help with captioning the spoken word?

After speaking with our musically inclined court reporters, we can see how a combination of finger dexterity and hand-ear coordination played a part in helping them get through school and become successful reporters. But one thing is even more evident — spending years practicing an instrument every day set the stage for court reporting school and passing the exams. It was, in a way, knowing what to expect, having spent all that time practicing something to perfection.

You can read the complete article here: <http://thevarallogroup.com/music-to-our-ears/>.