

Nick Valencia Bio

I am a trained convergence journalist, which means I can write, shoot and edit on the fly, as well as work effectively in print and online journalism.

Most recently I enterprised a personal trip to Tijuana, Mexico which ultimately turned into work where I was writing notes on toilet paper so as not to be outted as a journalist. On the surface a trip to such a dangerous place may sound at best reckless and at worst idiotic, but in my time with CNN I have never put myself in a position in the field that jeopardized my safety, and not least the ethical integrity of our team.

I grew up around a gang-infested area of Los Angeles where I manicured my ability to be in conflict situations, as well as know how to democratically get out of those situations. This has allowed me both the psychological strength and courage as a journalist to newsgather in some pretty obscure places. In Africa, I spent time traveling as a one-man band for one month; shortly after coming back to the United States I infiltrated a Mexican gang in Los Angeles to find the motive behind black on brown violence; and, more recently I managed to go undercover into a women's prison in Gadsden, Alabama where I interviewed illegal Mexican women about how they were being treated by the prison.

Over the last three years at CNN I have played a significant editorial role in pre and post-production for CNN International; and for the last year I have used my savvy and passion to play an integral role on CNN's National Desk. On a personal note, I have seen several slices of the world in my adult life. In 2004 I did a tour working as a bartender and studying in Bilbao, Spain. In 2005 after graduating university I camped my way across the western United States, eventually landing in Minneapolis where I worked several blue collar jobs. It is imperative for me to be well-rounded, so while living in Atlanta I have spent much of my free time befriending non-journalists, particularly those in the immigrant and minority communities.

As you can tell, what sets me apart is my wide-range and adaptability. I do have incredible enthusiasm, but I am also now grounded by the maturity one gets from being in a network newsroom. During my time at CNN, it has been made clear to me that in order to get the job done it takes a team effort.