

Walter Leland Cronkite Jr. was born November 4th, 1916 in St. Joseph Missouri. His family moved to Houston, Texas in 1927, which is where he grew up. At the age of 12, Cronkite read a Boys Life Magazine article about a foreign correspondent and decided he wanted to become a journalist. He worked for the school newspaper in both Middle School and High School. He attended The University of Texas at Austin and studied Political Science. He had multiple jobs to help pay for his tuition. He worked on the Daily Texan and the Houston Post as well as the International News Service on weekends. In 1935, Cronkite's Junior Year of College, he decided to fully commit to journalism and went to work full-time for the Houston Press. He also had radio station jobs in Oklahoma City and Kansas City.

1936 is the year that he went to work for the United Press International. Here, he learned the importance of putting out accurate facts, writing them in simple terms, and getting every story on the wire quickly. In December of 1941, the UPI elevated Cronkite to a war correspondent and was assigned to cover German bombing raids on London. He also covered the invasion of North Africa from the deck of a ship bombarding the Moroccan Coast. In 1944, he reported on the Allied landing in Normandy France. In 1945, he reported on the Nuremberg Trials. After the war was over, Cronkite remained in Europe and served as the UP Bureau Chief in Moscow from 1946 - 1948.

In 1950, Walter Cronkite was hired by Edward R. Murrow to be a host for CBS. Throughout the 1950's, Cronkite hosted "You Are There", "The Morning Show", "The Twentieth Century", and "Man of the Week". For the presidential conventions of 1952, 56, and 60, Cronkite was there to inform the public. 1962, and the 19 years following, were the years that gave Cronkite a place in the history books. He became the anchorman of "Walter Cronkite with the News", which would later be called "CBS Evening News with Walter Cronkite". The premiere, on September 3rd, 1963, was an interview with John F. Kennedy. Soon after he took over as anchorman, the 15 minute broadcast became 30 minutes, making it the first ever half-hour nightly news show on American Network television. Also in 1963, Cronkite reported the assassination of Pres. John F. Kennedy. As seen in the picture on the left, he is putting on his glasses to read the report he just received. The audience could tell that he was emotional, with a tear in his eye and falter in his voice. In 1968, Cronkite was sent to report on the Vietnam War. He told America that it could only end in a stalemate and turned a fair few against the war. President Lyndon B. Johnson even said, "If I've lost Cronkite, I've lost Middle America". In 1969, he was on air for 27 hours out of the full 30 that it took for the crew of Apollo 11 to complete their mission. When Cronkite got word that they landed safely, he broke his usual poker face and couldn't help but to smile. He covered nearly every space flight from 1961 to 81. NASA loved that Cronkite continued to enthuse the people over landings of NASA ships and the discoveries that came along with them.

In the 1970's, Cronkite covered the Watergate Scandal, the resignation of Richard Nixon, as well as the peace negotiations between the Egyptian President(Anwar Sadat), and the Israeli Prime Minister(Menachem Begin). In a 1972 poll, he was named the "most trusted man in America" and would continue to be referred to as such for the rest of his life. Another thing people remember him by is his closing line, "And that's the way it is". After 19 years as a CBS anchor, Cronkite resigned. He continued to host around 60 documentaries and also contributed essays to NPR's "All Things Considered". Occasionally, he was a special correspondent for CBS and he also published an autobiography in 1996, titled, "A Reporter's Life". He received an Evelyn F. Burkey Award, two Peabody Awards, a Television Critics Association Lifetime Achievement Award, a Nierenberg Prize, and a Presidential Medal of Freedom from Jimmy Carter in 1981. Walter L. Cronkite lived until he was 92 years old.