

EVOLVING TRENDS IN HIGH SCHOOL JOURNALISM

by:

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Recent changes in media consumption patterns, cultural trends, and technological improvements have all had a substantial impact on high school journalism. The trends influencing high school journalism programs change along with the journalism setting.

The move toward digital platforms is one of the most prominent developments in journalism (Haleem et al., 2023). In light of the proliferation of social media, digital publishing platforms, and online news sources, high school newspapers and magazines are gradually shifting away from conventional print media. In order to reach a wider audience and modify their storytelling strategies for online platforms, students are learning how to take advantage of digital tools and platforms. With the ability to distribute their work to a worldwide audience, high school journalism programs now have a greater reach and influence thanks to the digital shift.

The focus on multimedia storytelling is another important trend. These days, high school journalists are experimenting with a variety of multimedia formats, such as podcasts, movies, infographics, and interactive graphics, instead of only producing articles for print journals. Students can effectively engage readers in a more dynamic and engaging fashion, accommodating a range of learning methods and preferences, by integrating multimedia components into their storytelling. This tendency prepares students for professions in journalism and related sectors and reflects the growing significance of multimedia abilities in the contemporary media landscape.

The concepts of citizen journalism and community involvement are being adopted by more and more high school journalism departments. In order to highlight many voices

and viewpoints, students are encouraged to report on topics that are important to their classmates and local communities. High school journalists are essential in promoting civic involvement and creating a feeling of community in their schools and neighborhoods by covering subjects including social issues, school events, and community projects. This pattern is indicative of a larger movement in journalism toward participatory journalism, in which viewers take an active role in the process of reporting and gathering news.

In high school journalism, data journalism and visualizations are becoming major themes. In order to explain complicated topics and patterns, students are learning how to analyze data, make visuals, and employ data-driven storytelling strategies. Students can increase the legitimacy and impact of their work by giving readers more context and in-depth insights through the inclusion of data-driven aspects in their reporting. This trend reflects the growing demand in the media industry for data-driven storytelling, as well as the expanding availability of data and tools for data analysis.

Lastly, there's a growing emphasis on these three areas in high school journalism programs. It is encouraged of students to discuss a broad range of subjects and viewpoints, such as those pertaining to socioeconomic class, gender, race, and sexual orientation. High school journalists contribute to a more inclusive and representative media landscape by elevating underrepresented perspectives and fighting stereotypes through fostering diversity in their reporting. This pattern is indicative of a larger trend in the media business toward increased diversity and representation as well as an increasing understanding of the value of inclusive storytelling.

High school journalism is changing to meet the benefits and challenges of the digital age. High school journalism programs are leading the way in innovative practices within the media sector, ranging from embracing digital platforms and multimedia storytelling to advocating for citizen journalism and diversity, equity, and inclusion. Teachers and students are preparing themselves for jobs in journalism and related sectors

by embracing these changing trends, and they are also making the media environment more dynamic and inclusive.

References:

Haleem, A., Javaid, M., Qadri, M. A., & Suman, R. (2022). Understanding the role of digital technologies in education: A review. *Education and Information Technologies*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10639-022-10825-x>