

## TITLE-TATTLE: A WHISPERING CAMPAIGN OF STUDENT JOURNALISTS

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Voice – an important factor in telling the truth and exposing twisted facts that some made us believe in. Writing is a way of voicing out and expressing freedom of speech, which, as a journalist, I try to do. As student journalists, we write news and feature stories of truth about society and how we perceive it based on the facts given. It is also important that we fact-check these “facts” and be wise and smart in reading the painted picture or bent truths.

Campus journalism plays a vital role in fostering a better campus community and overall development and improvement of the students. As is it important, it has become a law known as the Republic Act 7079 or the Campus Journalism Act 1991 where it was declared to be a policy to uphold and protect the freedom of speech of student journalists to strengthen the values, critical thinking, and the development of the moral character of the Filipino youth as stated in Section 2.

The importance of campus journalism does not end with the development of the student, building their ethical values, and establishing critical thinking but there are more than these. According to Bloom (2011), campus journalism promotes freedom of speech and expression as it is a platform for student journalists to write news, interview people, and report through campus portals or publish papers. Campus fosters a safe environment where a diversity of voices can be heard through newspapers which promotes critical thinking and the development of ethical, political, and moral values.

Student engagement in social activities within the campus is fostered by journalism. News reports regarding campus events, issues, and policies are written and published for students to be conscious and aware of the occurrences and events within the campus where they need to engage and establish connections as stated by Collins and Pratt (2015).

As Gould (2009) stated, history and cultural archives such as magazines and newspapers document the improvement and evolution of the campus, its achievements, milestones, tradition, and culture through the years. Insightful experiences of different students are documented in different years and eras which serves the history of the campus where alumni reminisce, and the freshmen look forward to.

Most importantly, campus journalism builds communication and connection. Bryant and Smith (2002) stated that engaging in campus journalism develops a strong communication skill among students. This is a skill that is most valuable to write insightful and engaging news for the public to read. They build connections, and as we know, campus journalists end up and the student-journalists pursue their career path, connecting to people around helps them achieve their long-term goals.

We can conclude that the law protects our freedom of speech and expression through campus journalism. It plays a vital role in improving society by starting on campus. It builds one's self's ethical and moral values, communication skills, critical thinking, engagement in societal activities, and awareness of the issues and occurrences. Campus journalism is important, and that is why, this should be strengthened and embraced by educational institutions.

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