

STRENGTHENING CAMPUS JOURNALISM

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Freedom of the Press, freedom of speech, and freedom of expression are highly regarded and practiced here in the Philippines. Journalism and Broadcast media are powerful tools of our country. Aside from that, one of the areas being continuously developed is Campus Journalism.

As early as elementary days, learners are introduced to the power of journalism in society. Pupils learn basic categories like news writing, column writing, editorial writing, sports writing feature literary writing, and other factual writing. Another interesting part is the introduction to broadcasting, both television and radio. One of the highlights too is the online and collaborative writing, wherein pupils produce their magazines and newspapers.

Unlike in elementary and secondary, where the student journalists are still being trained and guided by their coaches and moderators, in tertiary (college), they are more independent and given more voice. Furthermore, they were trained to be accountable for their opinions and were held responsible for their work.

Furthermore, campus journalism serves as a tool for our young people to develop not just their journalistic skills and writing skills but also to be socially aware of what is happening in our country as well. Campus journalism opens up the eyes of the new generation to know what is the TRUTH, stand for the TRUTH, and fight for the TRUTH.

An interesting fact about Campus Journalism is that it is greatly supported by the government as many competitions are being held to support this. The prestigious

National Schools Press Conference is being held annually to collate and select the best campus journalists and recognize their efforts.

More than the glory of winning in the competition, campus journalism is developed to hone and develop a new breed and new generation of journalists who will practice the ethical standards in freedom of expression.

This is important to combat the rise of fake news and click-bait websites which are manufacturing false press releases. Campus Journalism is one of the answers to fight the rise of these fake news.

In the end, Campus journalism is important not just for school but for the country as well.

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