

VOICES OF TRUTH: THE ROLE OF STUDENT JOURNALISM IN PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY

by:

Zaida A. Teopengco

SHS Teacher II, E.C. Bernabe National High School

Student journalism is a potent instrument for truth and accountability in school communities in a time when false information spreads more quickly than ever before. Students who study journalism at Senior High School (SHS) develop critical thinking skills, ethical awareness, and a feeling of civic duty. As young journalists, students learn how to examine bias and confirm trustworthiness in addition to gathering and reporting facts—skills that are essential in navigating the complicated media environment of today (Barrett & Shoemaker, 2021).

Through student journalism, students may interact with actual issues impacting their peers and institutions and make their views heard. Students at SHS gain agency and confidence as engaged participants in democratic processes by reporting on school events, policies, and social issues (Kuehn & Lingwall, 2021). This supports the Department of Education's mission to encourage media literacy and responsible communication, equipping students to make significant contributions to public discourse both within and outside of the classroom.

Additionally, college journalism promotes openness and confidence in academic communities. Students promote responsibility among peers and school administrators when they take the initiative to post news, comments, and investigative reports (Tandoc et al., 2020). These kinds of actions are similar to those of professional journalists who serve as social watchdogs, making sure that justice and the truth are always at the center of institutional procedures. Students absorb the importance of honesty and moral reporting as a result.

Additionally, student journalism fosters leadership, creativity, and teamwork. Students learn how to resolve conflicting viewpoints and maintain common standards of accuracy and fairness by participating in editing teams (Lauf, 2022). These analytical and interpersonal abilities are applicable in professional settings, especially in occupations that require cooperation, communication, and critical thinking. As a result, journalism education fills the knowledge gap between the classroom and practical application.

Digital and media literacy are two 21st-century skills that are promoted by integrating journalism into SHS education. In order to counteract the pervasive influence of fake news, journalism students must be able to differentiate between legitimate and questionable information sources (Bulger & Davison, 2021). This knowledge contributes to a more informed and open society by assisting young people in developing into responsible digital citizens and astute media consumers.

How student journalism offers a welcoming forum for a range of viewpoints is equally significant. Students from different origins who share their experiences and tales help the school community develop empathy, compassion, and cultural awareness (Deuze & Witschge, 2020). This inclusiveness fosters societal cohesiveness and upholds journalism's dual function as a vehicle for representation and the truth.

In the end, instructing and encouraging student journalism is an essential pedagogical strategy that equips students for responsible citizenship, not just an extracurricular activity. SHS students discover that telling the truth is both a right and a responsibility through ethical reporting, critical evaluation, and candid discussion (Ward, 2021). They bring with them the virtues of integrity, openness, and responsibility – values that characterize a fair and democratic society – as future professionals and leaders.

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