CAMPUS JOURNALISM LITERACY: AUGMENTING CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING AMONG STUDENTS
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It is undeniable that campus journalism develops several skills among the students that are involved in school paper activities. Some of the skills that are being developed are management, communication, language and most especially critical and creative thinking skills. Having critical and creative thinking skills put the students into an advantage in excelling in their academics because these two skills are very essential in comprehending every day lessons and in creating outputs that are required by the teacher.

According to Tobin Beck (2015), "the teaching of journalism is an outstanding way to help students develop critical thinking skills, especially if those skills are defined as the ability to evaluate and prioritize information, discern fact from opinion and weight the credibility of facts". Student journalists who are inclined in news writing, opinion writing and editorial writing are those who are commonly exposed when it comes to critical thinking because they weigh which facts are true and accurate before writing an article.

This practice does not only last when it comes to being a campus journalist but can also be adapted in a classroom setting wherein the students can actively participate in the discussion. They are opted to give logical answers to the questions that require critical thinking and analysis, may the questions be in oral or written form. They are tend to provide smart answers and answers that have good points and with evidence or justification present to prove their claim.
Campus journalism also includes creative writing to serve as an icebreaker and entertainment for heavy news and issues in the campus paper. It develops a number of transferrable skills. Angelo Lorenzo (2014) said that “creative writing allows the writer to delve deeper into his imagination to bring out the story that he desires to write about”. Meaning, when the students write creatively, they are stimulating their imagination, hence, gives them an opportunity to think further.

Obviously, creative writing sharpens students’ creativity. Students who are in campus paper are often expected to have writing output with comprehensive and interesting details because they have innate capability to bring out extraordinary angles from something normal or simple. They transform plain ideas into something entertaining and fascinating. Creative thinking does not only apply in writing but to performance tasks as well. They can think of something that are unexpected or surprising to other students and can be to the teachers as well because of the uniqueness of ideas that are presented.

Campus journalists are versatile students. They are the ones who often excel in class because they are skilled in different competencies. Because of being used to the practices that are needed to be applied in journalism, they unconsciously adapt these skills even in their studies. Creative and critical thinking skills are needed for the students to be competitive and be outstanding in able to achieve academic excellence. Hence, aside from learning in a four-corner room where the teacher discusses in front, students might want to consider campus journalism in order for them to grow and have an advancement in the skills they possess.
References:
