UTILIZING CAMPUS JOURNALISM

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Writing, being one of the macro-skills, allows a person to showcase his thoughts and ideas. Not only is it further emphasized in schools as a major stepping-stone for their future careers, but also a way to voice out their feelings. Essays, formal theme writing, research, book reviews are some of the traditional activities that are given to strengthen the students’ ability to write comprehensively. But as the years passed, the need to be heard through writing came flashing right through. In 1991, the Campus Journalism Act has been passed making it one of the strongest laws that supports the promotion and development of student journalism, the different rights of the youth and the preservation of the integrity of student publications.

Campus journalism gives several benefits to students as it trains the learners in many aspects that are important for their holistic development. It gives them opportunities to practice good values such as truthfulness and fairness. The credibility of carrying information is also essential because journalism requires verity that seeks for a reliable information. It also develops the management skills because writing for the school paper is such a tedious task and being a student comes with being bombarded by school requirements; thus, managing time of what should be prioritized make them work productively. Multi-tasking is also being developed; ensuring that despite the tons of academic requirements, they are still creating quality articles.

According to Sonia Rao (2015), one of the best parts about writing for your campus newspaper is its flexibility. Since they are typically student-run, editors, as well as the school paper adviser, are there to help explore students’ interests, even if it means encouraging them to write for multiple sections at a time. Being a campus journalist is
advantageous and those who belong in a campus newspaper are being trained to become critical thinkers, since they are expected to have a deeper perspective and understanding when it comes to local and national issues, and many other things that are happening around us which common students fail to notice. Furthermore, analysis and investigations are being done before they will be able to create articles about a particular issue with a strong back up for their claims.

Campus journalism also improves research skills which gives them an edge as researches are present in every program in college. It provides them foundation and ample knowledge for such task. It would not be a serious dilemma for them once they are required to do so, because they are already exposed on fact-finding and even the proper organization of information, as well as identifying and creating hypothesis.

In addition, Taylor Lawritson (2016) said that high schools are expected to encounter non-fiction at approximately 70% of the texts according to PBS Learning Media. Literacy is addressed through journalism program with these types of documents that are research-necessary that students engage in while working on stories. She also added that journalism gives students a familiarity and fluency in writing which can be applied in almost every aspect of a student’s scholastic career.

Campus journalism is indeed an outlet – not only for the unheard issues but to express one’s emotions. A training ground to improve one’s writing abilities. A beneficial task that will gear them to be critical thinkers and knowledgeable citizens since they will be practiced to initially ensure the information they are receiving, as well as the information they are giving. It is evident that campus journalism opens many opportunities for improving students when it comes to many skills.

References:
http://www.congress.gov.ph/legisdocs/basic_16/HBO1493.pdf
