

Help of other Voices

Christian Lee R. Roque

Teacher III, Munoz National High School- Main

I used to think that my teaching strategy in handling the Journalism major class in my Grade 8 Special Program in Journalism (SPJ) is effective. The young journalists are reaching the standards for the competency level, yet it is not really translating into practice that much. Theory are easy to understand, and to memorize, yet to put it into practice is much different from answering a quiz full of short-items.

It's a big advantage that I have the experience of being a campus journalist when I was in high school. I get to share experiences, and also some errors that I made during contests. Feedbacks are very important, as it is in those times that I knew where I did wrong that I learned the most.

In the kids' shoes, I like to think that being a part of the SPJ program in our school is a huge opportunity for them to develop their critical thinking skills when it comes to journalistic ventures. I did not have the chance to enter the program as it was non-existent when I was in secondary school.

Since 2019, the SPJ program or Munoz National High School- Main are developing young children's potential to be responsible campus journalists. One of the founders, Ireneo Bucsit, Jr., was my coach in high school as a sports writer. To make some efforts in making the SPJ program possible is a huge asset for the school as it can now offer a special program suitable for young writers.

Sharing my experiences have been a very fulfilling feat of mine. Whatever I learned when I was in high school is now being passed on to young aspiring writers. Specially in news, and sports writing, teaching these categories is like a walk in the park.

That's also when the problem comes in. I am knowledgeable in some other categories, but I know I do not have the capabilities to bring out the best from those students who are interested in other categories. Sure, I can write a good news article. To write a sports article is a cakewalk, too. But to write a column, or an editorial, or even a science and technology feature are not really my forte.

So that's when we thought of an idea. Since we are all having our own categories to coach when it comes to competitions, why not give the chance to invite other coaches of our school paper when it is time to teach different categories? So that's what we did.

It was hard at first, as we had to find schedules properly for other teacher-coaches to come during their journalism time favor but the results proved to be

a lot better than one teacher trying to teach all competencies of different categories.

We managed to produce multiple DSPC winners, and also a RSPC placer in Karian Galang in Sports Writing. Also, we got to share all of our expertise in our dear students that we cater, with all of the knowledge that we focused on come contest time.

Most importantly, we have a lot of students who now can not only write in one discipline, but in multiple as well—an attestation that they are not only one-trick ponies. They are indeed worthy as young campus journalists.