

Media Activism Club Constitution

Purpose:

Student free-expression tends to be limited, especially in the media. In the Media Activism Club, the first amendment is restored to us, the youth of Bronx Science. All too often, we watch the media, ignorantly buying the products we think we need, letting the opinions of the more "powerful" dominate what we think and trusting sources because they look "professional". We will take an active stand on the issues we see around us, in the media or in our daily lives and create media which shows OUR perspectives, no matter what they are. We will think critically about the messages we read and hear in the media, and ask questions to analyze them, learning new technology, interviewing skills, how to be literate in the media and how to express our feelings to the world in the process. We will represent the opinions of like-minded individuals on whatever issues are pertinent to us. We will debate, inquire, listen, create, think, DO whatever it takes to restore free speech and democracy back into the media, bring it back to those listening, watching and reading it the students of Bronx Science.

Components:

- Meetings EVERY week.
- Discussions about media-related issues; media literacy, youth and the media, bias in the media, corporate vs. independent media, advertising.
- Lessons about how to use technology, programs....
- PROJECT CREATION; expression of perspectives of those creating it, or of those the creator wants to portray using video, print, audio- any media.
- PROJECT PUBLICATION; sending projects to any contests and outlets to portray the perspectives of students.
- Invitations to guest speakers from mainstream and independent media sources.
- Web Projects/ updating website
- Photo projects (what they were thinking, documentaries)
- Newsletter
- Fund-raising

Positions:

President- Organizes all lessons, discussions, project concepts, special events. Coordinates all other officers, divides club tasks, makes sure the club is productive. Must have special skills in technology, or be willing to learn them. Deals with school administration, advisor, and SO, LOP and is in charge of all resources and must look for ways to publicize the club and club projects.

Vice-President- Helps to organize lessons, generates ideas, makes sure everyone is doing their job, deals with most of the fund-raising. Takes care of many of the president's tasks as well.

Secretary- Attendance, fund-raising, keeps track of members, helps to generate ideas, makes projects, helps with projects.

Treasurer- Keeps track of all money and equipment (if any is acquired). Fund-raises, idea generation.

Advisor- Essentially, the advisor has a small but important role in the club. Advisor's insights and participation is always encouraged and they should have a critical mind and should be passionate about the topic as well. Carries out administrative work, forms etc...

Members- Should participate by their own free will in all club projects. Must be active in conversations and lessons and should have interest and passion for the topic of media activism. They should help to organize all special events and screenings. Attendance is mandatory for credit!!!

Elections:

An elected club official can stay "in office" until they graduate, unless they decide to resign from their position, or the majority of the club feels that they are not doing their job and can appoint someone else. The officers of the club nominate around three younger students per position which they feel will do the best job and are the most committed. They should have attended all meetings and should be really passionate about the topic. They can accept or decline their nomination. The club members each get one vote and choose from those nominated for a certain position. The winner of the majority of the club votes gets the position until they graduate. It is the obligation of the current officer to teach the incoming officer about their job and to teach them everything they need to know, including

technology, lessons, meetings and everything else. The incoming person should be very well prepared by the current person, since running Media Activism is not like running any other club. All officers must uphold members freedom of speech and right to discuss, debate and dissent.

Amendments:

If the majority of the club feels they would like to add to this constitution, they can vote (with each member receiving one vote) on the issue of concern and can add to this document.

Credit:

Credit is given only to those who have attended 85% of the meetings and who have paid club dues.

Dues:

Decided by the officials based on necessity every year.

Media Activism Club of Bronx Science, Bronx, NY adopts this constitution on June 16, 2003 signed:

President

Vice-President

Advisor