



JOURNALISM AND ITS IMPACT ON THE WORLD

Seminar Leader: **Nathan Phan**

House Leader: **Hayato Nakamura**

Course Description

This seminar has two main purposes: to give students the opportunity to understand “journalism” and to feel the potential power of journalism in their careers and society. Starting with an explanation of journalism and its role in American and Japanese high schools, students will be introduced to the main categories of print and online journalism: writing, cartooning, photography, and editing. Once students become familiar with how journalism works and determine what interests them, they will have an opportunity to practice their journalism skills by covering the 2016 Komatsu Summer School. Students will leave the seminar with not only a general understanding of journalism but also important skills like communication and collaboration that will help them become advocates for important issues and ideas.

Schedule

Day 1: *Introduction of Journalism and its All-Encompassing Importance*

What is journalism? Building off of discussions through our pre-assignment, we will explore actual examples of journalism (videos, blogs, websites, and newspapers) and learn that journalism is an all-encompassing skill that is useful for students, writers, and career workers. Finally, we will end the day by briefly discussing the differences in journalism between American and Japanese high schools and how students engage with journalism in these two countries. This theme about the importance of journalism both in school and outside school will be revisited later on.

Day 2: *The Different Aspects of Journalism and How to Become a Journalist*

What do journalists do? With a basic understanding of journalism, we will learn about the four broad categories of print/online journalism: writing, cartooning, photography, and editing. In learning about these categories, we will look at examples in each of these categories and discuss what makes these examples either good or bad. Afterwards, students will have an opportunity to think about what aspects make good journalism, and why it is important to have these aspects. At the end of the day, students will be divided up based on their interests among the different journalism categories introduced and discussed.

Day 3: *Practicing Journalism by Working as a Journalism Staff/Team*

What is it actually like to work as a journalist? On Day 3, we will cover a topic/event (most likely the Komatsu Summer School) by first discussing the preparations involved.



Students will be asked to describe specific steps to prepare before, during, and after going to the event or researching the topic. (For example, writers will outline information about how to cover the event, what questions to ask, and how they will structure the story.) We will provide the option for students to publish their works on the KSS blog afterwards.

Day 4: *How You Can Impact Society through Journalism*

What can you do as journalist to make an impact on society? On our final day of the seminar, we will review what we have learned together about journalism and explore how skills learned through journalism can be helpful in both school and careers. The seminar will end with a showcase of how journalism can have an impact on society by showing examples of famous journalists of each country, such as Jose Antonio Vargas and Yukichi Fukuzawa. We will share ways that students can get further involved in journalism as students, writers, and advocates for important issues.

Pre-Seminar Assignments and Readings

Please bring printed materials (English materials are preferred, but Japanese materials are fine as well) of what you think qualifies as an example of “journalism” – this can range from newspapers, pictures/images, magazines, etc. This will be used for our first discussion on what journalism is and will encourage you to think about how you have thought about journalism before the seminar.

To help begin this assignment, here is a very general definition of journalism:

Journalism (n.) - Journalism is the activity of gathering, assessing, creating, and presenting news and information. It is also the product of these activities.

(from the American Press Institute website:

<https://www.americanpressinstitute.org/journalism-essentials/what-is-journalism/>)

Message from the House Leader

Hello, I'm Hayato Nakamura. I graduated from the faculty of Economics in Keio University this spring. At the university, I majored in environmental economics and environmental problems. Out of the university, I was a member of Tsunagalien, which is one of the biggest sources of student interview media in Japan, and I have written more than twenty interview articles. I'm now working as the vice president of the KSS promotion team and a staff member at The Valley of Gangala. I promise this seminar will be both “helpful” and “fun,” because writing articles is a mixture of academic writing and art. You will understand what I mean if you take our seminar!



Message from the Seminar Leader

Hi, everyone! My name is Nathan Phan, and I am a rising sophomore at Princeton University. Ever since I was in high school, journalism has always been an important aspect of my life. I was on my high school newspaper staff for four years, writing articles, drawings cartoons and comics, and eventually helping to manage their website. For my junior year of high school, I attended the Princeton Summer Journalism Program, which really inspired me with the idea that anyone can become a journalist, even students, and advocate for important issues and ideas. That program led me to apply to Princeton University, where I work as a freelance journalist for the University Press Club and a cartoonist for the Daily Princetonian newspaper. I am so fortunate that I can teach this seminar and show you all how journalism can have impact on you and society as well. With Hayato, who has a great amount of experience writing online, we hope that you will enjoy this seminar and learn to write well, think critically about important ideas, and overall become an active member for issues that matter to you.