



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# MEDIA

## TV, Radio, Newspaper, & Digital Media

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# YOUR STEPS IN THE MEDIA

## YOUR MISSION

To document the significant events of Youth in Government. This includes but is not necessarily limited to the LAUNCH Training, the Youth in Government session, and other relevant conferences and workshops.

## THINGS YOU WILL DO AS A MEDIA MEMBER

- Write and submit one news articles ready for publication (all media outlets)
- Cover events at conferences and trainings
- Meet all deadlines
- Attend the LAUNCH training session in the fall
- Adhere to the Code of Conduct

As a member of the media, your goal is to understand and practice the role of media in the government. Through this process of “learning by doing,” you have the opportunity to choose from a variety of media genres: Newspaper, TV News, Radio, or Digital Media. Your whole position revolves around working on some aspect of media production: reporting the facts, writing, interviewing, commentary, layout and graphic design, photography, editing and production, circulation.

# WHAT IS THE MEDIA?

## NEWSPAPER



Participants write and edit a daily newspaper for Youth in Government. All members of the newspaper leadership team work together to develop formats and decide worthy news items. Students are encouraged to spend a day with a professional newspaper reporter prior to YIG to observe the fact-gathering and writing processes first-hand. To be a member of the newspaper staff, participants must be self-motivated, good writers, and have the ability to produce quality work on a tight schedule.

Members of the Newspapers should begin investigating stories and events at the local level as soon as delegations form. Contact local newspapers to see if it would be possible to write a "feature story" in the local paper regarding Youth in Government. At the LAUNCH Training, Newspaper members will be assigned specific areas to cover for future editions of the paper and take part in program area training sessions.

## TV NEWS STATION



Participants are responsible for writing, reporting, producing, filming and editing a daily television news program at Youth in Government that will be broadcast each evening.

TV News members should begin at the local level by contacting radio and television stations to conduct personal interviews and find out what is involved with news reporting. Delegates and Delegation Directors could arrange for local reporters to allow delegates to shadow them in the field, observing their reporting style. Try filming delegation meetings or conduct interviews with candidates and other delegation members. Bring the video footage to the training sessions so plans can begin immediately on the type of shows that will be produced. At the LAUNCH Training, specific assignments will be made for the session in January.

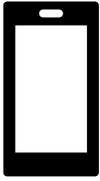
## RADIO STATION



Participants record and produce daily news and entertainment radio shows for cablecast at the hotel. Reporters write news stories, producers compile news programs, "disc jockeys" produce and host programs live over the hotel system.

Radio Station members should begin at the local level by contacting radio stations to conduct personal interviews, find written resources and possibly spend some time at a radio station to learn everyday operations. At the LAUNCH Training, specific duties will be assigned for the Youth in Government Session. Depending on the role delegates choose to play, they may be required to attend additional training workshops or radio broadcasting classes in November and December.

## DIGITAL



Participants write and edit posts for the various digital media platforms we use (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) for the Youth in Government conference. All members of the digital media leadership team work together to develop formats and decide worthy news items. To be a member of the digital team, participants must be self-motivated, good writers, and have the ability to produce quality work on a tight schedule. Team members must also write and post clearly, adhere to media standards, and ensure we promote a positive image to our external audiences (alumni, donors, parents, etc.)

# MEDIA ROLES

The Media offers a variety of opportunities – the most of any program area in Youth in Government! Your job is to narrow this list down to your top two or three choices and bring those with you to the LAUNCH.

## ROLE ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments in Media are appointed by the Media Director and based on experience, your preference, and the need to fully staff each area. If there are more requests from Media delegates for one particular area or role, preference is given to those individuals with prior experience in that role and seniority in the program (i.e., years in Youth in Government).

What happens once you receive your role assignment?

1. This is your PERMANENT assignment for the Youth in Government. You will work for this section of the media during the conference.
  - a. From time-to-time, certain resources may be pulled from one area, in order to meet deadlines.
  - b. For example, when an issue has been laid out and the final proof is done, Newspaper members who are not busy at the time may be called upon to help photocopy the paper and deliver to various spots around the conference.
2. If you are a reporter, you will receive an assignment at the beginning or end of the day for the following day's issue.
  - a. Photographers will typically have a list of shots they are required to shoot each day.
  - b. Layout editors will have work-in-progress each day, and typically work to that day's scheduled publication deadline.
  - c. Reporters are to check in at the Press Room every morning, complete his or her assignment during the day (and within deadline), and be sure to attend any staff meetings that are held during the day, as checkpoints for production status.
3. Once you have completed your assignment, you are welcome to submit work for another section of the paper. You could also volunteer for another job assignment, such as reproduction and delivery or classified ad sales.
4. All reporters and classified staff NOT submitting other work are REQUIRED to volunteer as reproduction staff, serve as additional proofing editors, help with paper distribution, or sell classifieds.
5. The Media program demands considerable individual initiative and responsibility. You must be highly motivated and stay on track during the course of each assignment.
6. Since Media roles provide for more freedom of movement throughout the conference during the weekend, it is essential that each Media member who serves in one of these capacities exercises the utmost skill in time management, organization, and punctuality, so other parts of the program are not compromised because of time loss.
7. Regardless of their role, all Media members are required to report in at the beginning of each work session where roll call is taken prior to new assignments.

# Newspaper Roles

## MANAGER

- Qualifications: Ability to lead teams and see through on a vision.
- Duties: Supervise and direct team members, ensure that Newspaper meets its goals, and step in to fill roles as needed.

## LAYOUT EDITOR

The reporters, Copy Editor, and Layout Editor will work together to develop and produce all articles for the newspaper. The Layout Editor is responsible for editing the look and feel of all articles prior to publication, as well as the wholistic feel of the paper overall. The Layout Editor will also become familiar with standard desktop publishing software.

- Qualifications: Skills and some background in desktop publishing and layout. Training is provided on the specific desktop publishing package being used each year.
- Duties: You are responsible for the physical layout of the newspaper, including text and graphic placement; headline and caption formatting; by-line placement; and story, article, and ad integrity.

## COPY EDITOR

The reporters, Copy Editor, and Layout Editor will work together to develop and produce all articles for the newspaper. The Copy Editor is responsible for editing the content of all articles prior to publication. The Copy Editor will also become familiar with the "Track Changes" function on Microsoft Office and/or Google Docs software.

- Qualifications: Previous Media experience, preferably as a Layout or Copy editor (Reporters can also qualify). Skill in proofreading, copy editing, and layout editing.
- Duties: Your primary duties are to ensure that each article is well written, grammatically correct, meets style standards established by Media, and makes good use of headline choice, cut-lines, and breakout quotes.

## REPORTER

The reporters, Copy Editor, and Layout Editor will work together to develop and produce all articles for the newspaper. Reporters are responsible for finding news leads, researching stories and following-up on leads. Reporters will also be assigned stories by the Newspaper Manager. Reporters will develop good interviewing techniques and will be comfortable interviewing others.

- Qualifications: Curiosity about a variety of issues, willingness to conduct research in person and through other methods, public speaking, writing and asking good questions, comfortable appearing on camera or in audio.
- Duties: Speak and write clearly, ability to approach people to request info, conduct interviews, write stories, meet deadlines. Use good grammar, vocabulary, and spelling. Present on camera or in audio format.

# Television Station Roles

## MANAGER

- Qualifications: Ability to lead teams and see through on a vision.
- Duties: Supervise and direct team members, ensure that the Television Station meets its goals, and step in to fill roles as needed.

## EDITOR

The reporter, videographer and editor will work together to develop and produce all story segments for the news show. The Editor is responsible for editing short news segments (also called roll-ins) for the news program. Editors assemble the footage gathered on location into a coherent and effective program. Editors will become familiar with all aspects of non-linear editing.

- Qualifications: Technical equipment knowledge, organized, special knowledge of editing software.
- Duties: Edits all packages from reporters/videographers into the master show.

## ANCHOR

The anchor is primarily responsible for writing the script for the newscast and reading that copy during the program taping. Additionally, they will serve as on-call reporters for the field crew.

- Qualifications: Public speaking, quick thinking, ability to tell stories in visual, oral, and written fashion.
- Duties: Host TV broadcast, write stories, help TV Manager determine story order.

## VIDEOGRAPHERS

The reporter, videographer and editor will work together to develop and produce all story segments for the news show. Videographers are responsible for setting up portable camera equipment on location and making sure that all necessary footage is shot. Videographers will also set-up audio equipment and monitor audio during location shoots. Videographers will learn to be comfortable doing hand held camera work and using a tripod.

- Qualifications: Technical equipment knowledge, ability to tell stories visually.
- Duties: Shoot news stories, edit stories for broadcast.

## REPORTERS

The reporter, videographer, and editor will work together to develop and produce all story segments for the news show. Reporters are responsible for finding news leads, researching stories and following-up on leads. Reporters will also be assigned stories by the TV Station Manager. Reporters will develop good interviewing techniques and will be comfortable interviewing others on camera.

- Qualifications: Curiosity about a variety of issues, willingness to conduct research in person and through other methods, public speaking, writing and asking good questions, comfortable appearing on camera or in audio.
- Duties: Speak and write clearly, ability to approach people to request info, conduct interviews, write stories, meet deadlines. Use good grammar, vocabulary, and spelling. Present on camera or in audio format.

## **CLOSING VIDEO**

Work as a team to write, shoot, and edit the closing session video. The final product will need approval from the CYV State Office before closing session.

- Qualifications: Creative thinker, ability to tell stories in visual, oral, and written fashion.
- Duties: Write, shoot, and edit closing session video, conduct interviews.

## **Radio Station Roles**

### **MANAGER**

- Qualifications: Ability to lead teams and see through on a vision.
- Duties: Supervise and direct team members, ensure that the Radio Station meets its goals, and step in to fill roles as needed.

### **REPORTERS**

Reporters are responsible for finding news leads, researching stories and following-up on leads. Reporters will also be assigned stories by the producer and the station manager. Reporters will develop good interviewing techniques and will be comfortable interviewing others on the air.

- Qualifications: Curiosity about a variety of issues, willingness to conduct research in person and through other methods, public speaking, writing and asking good questions, comfortable appearing on camera or in audio.
- Duties: Speak and write clearly, ability to approach people to request info, conduct interviews, write stories, meet deadlines. Use good grammar, vocabulary, and spelling. Present on camera or in audio format.

### **EDITORS**

The reporters and editors will work together to develop and produce all story segments for the radio show. The Editor is responsible for editing short news segments (also called roll-ins) for the news program. Editors will become familiar with all aspects of non-linear editing.

- Qualifications: Technical equipment knowledge, organized, special knowledge of editing software.
- Duties: Edits all packages from reporters into the master show.

## **Digital Media Roles**

### **MANAGER**

- Qualifications: Ability to lead teams and see through on a vision.
- Duties: Supervise and direct team members, ensure that the Digital team meets its goals, and step in to fill roles as needed.

### **TEAM MEMBERS**

Team Members are responsible for finding news leads, researching stories and following-up on leads. They write and post clearly, adhere to media standards, and assist the manager in running all digital media platforms.

# JOURNALISM 101

The goal of a good story is to provide clear, concise facts to the consumer in an easily understandable manner. You have a unique opportunity to observe and research the activities of the Youth in Government conference and to report your observations and facts to more than 1,600 of your colleagues and advisors, in addition to audiences beyond Youth in Government.

Along with your privileged vantage-point, you have responsibilities to your readers:

- To present accurate accounts of Youth in Government activities.
- To create high-quality stories that inform your readers.
- To provide information that readers want to know and need to know.
- To discern between “hard news” and “fluff,” keeping each category clearly separate when reporting the news.
- To organize sections of the news appropriately.
- To create daily editions in a timely, consistent manner.

The media is a record of Youth in Government – as reporters, editors, and leaders of the media, you have been entrusted with keeping that record.

As a member of the Media, you will find yourself in situations where you need to answer challenging questions about what is right or wrong to document and broadcast. Another thing you need to keep in mind throughout your experience is the general ethics of journalism – the moral principles and values that are at the heart of the field.

## JOURNALISTIC ETHICS

(Modified from the Society of Professional Journalists' Code of Ethics)

### PREAMBLE

Members of the Society of Professional Journalists believe that public enlightenment is the forerunner of justice and the foundation of democracy. The duty of the journalist is to further those ends by seeking truth and providing a fair and comprehensive account of events and issues. Conscientious journalists from all media and specialties strive to serve the public with thoroughness and honesty. Professional integrity is the cornerstone of a journalist's credibility. Members of the Society share a dedication to ethical behavior and adopt this code to declare the Society's principles and standards of practice.

### SEEK TRUTH AND REPORT IT

Journalists should be honest, fair and courageous in gathering, reporting and interpreting information. Journalists should:

- Test the accuracy of information from all sources and exercise care to avoid inadvertent error. Deliberate distortion is never permissible.

- Diligently seek out subjects of news stories to give them the opportunity to respond to allegations of wrongdoing.
- Identify sources when feasible. The public is entitled to as much information as possible on a source's reliability.
- Make certain that headlines, news teases and promotional material, photos, video, audio, graphics, sound bites and quotations do not misrepresent. They should not oversimplify or highlight incidents out of context.
- Never plagiarize.
- Tell the story of the diversity and magnitude of the human experience boldly, even when it is unpopular to do so.
- Avoid stereotyping by race, gender, age, religion, ethnicity, geography, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance or social status.
- Support the open exchange of views, even views they find repugnant.
- Give voice to the voiceless; official and unofficial sources can be equally valid.
- Distinguish between advocacy and news reporting. Analysis and commentary should be labeled and not misrepresent fact or context.
- Recognize a special obligation to ensure that the public's business is conducted in the open and that government records are open to inspection.

## **MINIMIZE HARM**

Ethical journalists treat sources, subjects and colleagues as human beings deserving of respect.

Journalists should:

- Show compassion to those who may be affected adversely by news coverage. Use special sensitivity when dealing with children and inexperienced sources or subjects.
- Be sensitive when seeking or using interviews or photographs of those affected by tragedy or grief.
- Recognize that gathering and reporting information may cause harm or discomfort. Pursuit of the news is not a license for arrogance.
- Recognize that private people have a greater right to control information about themselves than do public officials and others who seek power, influence or attention. Only an overriding public need can justify intrusion into anyone's privacy.
- Show good taste. Avoid pandering to lurid curiosity.

## **ACT INDEPENDENTLY**

Journalists should be free of obligation to any interests other than the public's right to know. Journalists should:

- Avoid conflict of interest, real or perceived.
- Remain free of associations/activities that compromise integrity or damage credibility.
- Refuse gifts, favors, fees, free travel and special treatment, and shun secondary employment, political involvement, public office and service in community organizations if they compromise journalistic integrity.
- Disclose unavoidable conflicts.
- Be vigilant and courageous about holding those with power accountable.

- Deny favored treatment to advertisers and special interests and resist their pressure to influence news coverage.
- Be wary of sources offering information for favors or money; avoid bidding for news.

## **BE ACCOUNTABLE**

Journalists are accountable to their readers, listeners, viewers and each other.

Journalists should:

- Clarify and explain news coverage and invite dialogue over journalistic conduct.
- Encourage the public to voice grievances against the news media.
- Admit mistakes and correct them promptly.
- Expose unethical practices of journalists and the news media.
- Abide by the same high standards to which they would hold others.

## **PRE-WRITING**

Keep this writing process in mind as it is vital for producing good stories:

**PRE-WRITE → WRITE → EDIT → REWRITE → PUBLISH/BROADCAST**

### **STEP 1 – DECIDE ON THE TYPE OF STORY**

This is important because it will drive how you research and write your piece. For your work Youth in Government, this step may be decided for you depending on what role you are assigned to. For now, however let's focus on the articles you need to write and submit through your local delegation to apply for the Media. You can write about:

- News
- Features
- Author an Opinion piece
- Entertainment/Sports

### **Tips on Getting Started**

Before you venture out to work on your story or to do an interview, spend at least 10 minutes thinking about your story and writing down the following things. Your story will come together quicker and will be better written if you are well-organized before you begin. Sometimes it even helps to do this in outline form.

- 1) Draw the shape of your story on your paper and decide where you want your story to start and how you want it to finish. This seriously affects the nature of questions you ask and what you write.
  - a) Example: Suppose you are writing a story about Orville Lindquist and his position as the State Program Executive of the YMCA Center for Youth Voice. You may want to start out explaining his background with the program, but you'll really want to finish talking about his goals for Youth in Government, how he thinks the program has changed in his years of participation, his favorite color, food, music, etc. and how they make him unique.

- b) These subjects are pretty broad and not necessarily related, so if you don't have focus before you start to work, you'll spend far too much time interviewing, collecting information and writing. In the end, your story may be too long and may not flow well.
- 2) On your note pad, write down WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHY, HOW, WHEN and leave space next to each one so that you can write down the answers when you get them. Even if you are doing a poll, you will need to include an introduction or lead with this information.
  - 3) Write down what you do know about the subject so you can confirm it. Write down what you don't know or would like to know. Again, leave space between and next to each question so that your notes are organized neatly and are easy for you to follow later.
  - 4) Don't forget to get delegation and individual delegate names and double-check spelling of each name.
  - 5) Write a list of all the people you might need to talk to and places you might need to go to research your story. Check your schedule for locations and times when you might be successful in getting the details you need, and make a schedule for yourself before you walk out the door. It will really help, and you will avoid lost time and frustration.
  - 6) After you have completed interviews, glance over your notes for any last minute clarifications. Sit down with your notes and decipher any messy words while your interview is still fresh in your mind.

## What Makes the Public Pay Attention?

Taken from [English Journal](#), May 1979.

There seem to be five principal elements which make the public pay attention. These forces work together and against each other to provide the excitement and satisfaction we find in interesting news.

**INFORMATION.** The audience hungers for specific information. The more concrete and detailed the information, the more it will interest the public who delight in facts, statistics and brief quotations. Precise descriptions satisfy the public's curiosity, give the impression of authority, and provide the public with information they can pass on to someone else. The media must satisfy the public's appetite for specifics, while at the same time be responsible to make sure the specifics are accurate and used in an appropriate context.

**SIGNIFICANCE.** The audience wants to know the meaning of the information they receive and how it affects them. They are particularly interested when the media reveals surprising connections between pieces of information. These connections make the biggest impact when the public recognizes the significance of a connection they felt but had not articulated themselves.

**PEOPLE.** Audiences want to see people, hear them talk, watch them in dramatic action and reaction with other people. They like to see anecdotes—the little scenes in which people reveal both themselves and the subject. Audiences want to meet people with whom they can identify and often they become, for a few moments, the person on the news and so extend their experiences by living another life. Audiences also enjoy a strong sense of place and time; they like to see the people they hear about in their world -- to be shown as well as told.

**ORDER.** Audiences enjoy writing which has a firmly built structure and provides them with a sense of order. Writing gives shape to experience. Readers want writing to have resolution, a sense of completion. Above all, an audience's questions must be anticipated and answered in a well-made piece of writing.

**VOICE.** People respond to the voice of media—one individual speaking to another individual. Audiences pay attention to a voice which has authority, concern and energy.

## **STEP 2 – CHOOSE YOUR TOPIC**

One of the most significant challenges to the student journalist is deciding what to write or report about. Below are several topics covered in previous Youth in Government media stories. Some stories have appeared consistently over the years, while others were good ideas that only made it once. This list is not even close to exhaustive -- don't let this limit your creativity.

Delegation Director or Advisor Profile  
Book Reviews  
Big Delegations vs. Small Delegations  
Candidate Interviews  
Carnival  
Committees Overview  
Officer Interviews  
Closing Session  
"Coming Up Tomorrow at Youth in Government"  
Court, Legislative, NIF, Lobbyist, Cabinet, Media Proceedings  
Delegation profile  
Downtown Minneapolis and Downtown St. Paul  
Evening Delegation Meetings  
General conference information that readers will want to know  
Host hotel  
Hotel and Capitol staff profile  
Information for Youth in Government Veterans  
Info for Youth in Government Rookies  
Leadership Corps Program  
Movie Reviews  
Music Reviews

Model United Nations Profile  
News Conferences  
News features from "the real world"  
National Affairs Conference Profile  
Officer/Appointed Official profile  
Opening Session  
Profile of Conference Meals  
Restaurant Reviews  
Resource Staff  
Resources Available to Delegates  
LAUNCH Training Event Recap  
Op/Ed pieces on specific bills or court cases (either pro or con)  
Program Overviews (House, Senate, Lobbyist, Court, Press)  
Results of polls State Offices – Explained  
Secretary of State Office  
Status of Bills (Coordinate with Secretary of State's Office)  
Steering Committee Profiles (Local Committees and State Committee)  
Youth Governors Platforms  
Top 10 Lists/In and Out Lists  
YMCA History  
Youth in Government Traditions

## **STEP 3 – DO YOUR RESEARCH**

Now that you have the beginnings of an idea, you need to do some looking around to be able to develop it more fully. Your research will be different depending on the type of article you are writing. Some things that might help you develop your article idea are:

- Media sources- Time, Newsweek, Internet, nightly news, radio, etc.
- Thinking of things that have personally affected you or someone you know.
- Discussions with local leaders, teachers, family and friends.

Once you've checked these sources, you need to move onto the research.

You'll need to collect as many facts as you can about your subject. Try places like:

- Library, Internet, books, magazines
- Associations and organizations that your affect the subject of your article
- Professionals, attorneys, educators

You should have some statistics, some facts, and even some informed testimonies by people who know what they're talking about. The more facts you can find now, the better your article will be. The best articles are written by people who have done their work! Here are some questions to guide your research:

**WHO IS THE AUDIENCE?** Determine the audience, which will in turn determine the subject of the story, what points it covers, and how it is written.

**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE STORY?** Is it to inform the readers, challenge the sources, give a preview, review the course of events? This will determine how it is written and how the information is used.

**WHO WILL BE YOUR SOURCES?** Information has to come from people or documents, not just "what everyone knows" or what you think. Who will be the best source of information for the subject of the story? Who will be most knowledgeable and credible? What documents are available to back up what the sources say?

**ASK YOURSELF "WHY IS THIS PERSON LYING TO ME?"** While no one may deliberately lie to you, they may be telling you only part of the truth. They also may be giving you the truth from their perspective because they have a particular idea that they want to get across or an agenda that they want to put forward.

**THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS NEWS.** Long before the newspaper hits the street, or your story hits the 6:00 news, people will already know the facts. What will your story add to the discussion? Will it be an analysis piece? Will it put the subject in an historical context? Will it provide commentary from the people affected by the subject?

## Research Questions

Who is the audience?

What is the purpose of the story?

Who are your sources?

What's the "new" part of this news? What's your angle?

## Interviewing Tips

You will also be conducting interviews for your articles, whether or not the interviewee is the focus of the article. Be sure you have a good set of questions prior to the interview. Here are a few tips that may make your interview go more smoothly:

- Decide on your purpose
  - To report the facts, OR
  - To write a feature.
- Develop questions
  - Ask questions, don't make statements.
  - Keep questions simple, but avoid questions that can be answered simply with a yes or a no.
  - Remain neutral.
  - Ask only one question at a time.
  - If working on a pro/con piece, ask pro questions first.
  - Develop questions that require some thought.
  - Ask more than you think necessary.
  - Ask questions in a logical order:
    - Fact to opinion,
    - General to specific,
    - Easy to difficult.

- Schedule an appointment
  - Identify yourself.
  - Decide on appropriate place and time.
  - Be prompt and polite.
- The interview
  - Note reactions of person you are interviewing.
  - Note surroundings (if interesting or important).
  - Notice direction of interview—keep on track or go where it takes you.
  - Don't be nervous or uncomfortable.
  - Take accurate notes:
    - Ask to make certain you understand;
    - The cardinal sin of reporting is misquoting people – quotes must be verbatim.
    - Check numbers, names, titles and spellings.
- Six ways to ask questions
  - Compare and contrast – ask for similarities or differences.
  - Example/illustration – ask for a description.
  - Criticism – ask about positive first, then be tactful.
  - Discussion – ask for detailed explanation.
  - Definition – ask for definition.
  - Observation – ask for thoughts, feelings, beliefs.

## **Special Considerations – BEWARE!**

In running a student media, we have the ability to reach large numbers of the community. Delegates and advisors trust that the information we provide is accurate, true and complete. When it is not, whether it is a misspelled name or an absolute misrepresentation of the facts, as a program we are held responsible in any law suits (and hate mail) that ensues. It is the policy to make a retraction in the following issue/broadcast for any substantial misrepresentation, as well as to handle disgruntled readers in a polite, firm and courteous manner.

There are three big journalism “no-no’s” (types of expressions that have never been protected by the First Amendment.) These come under the headings of libel, invasion of privacy, and obscenity. These offenses can lead to serious consequence including lawsuits, acts of censorship on the part of the program staff (known as “prior restraint”), and even termination of the program itself.

Let's review and understand each one of these categories:

### **Libel**

Libel is a falsely printed statement of fact that attacks a person's reputation or good name. There are four parts to libel: publication, identification, injury and fault.

- Publication: The statement must be published in a public document such as a student newspaper. It does not matter whether it was a poorly researched fact included in the story by the writer or whether it appears as fact in someone's quote – ultimately the publication is held responsible.

- **Identification:** The libeled person must be clearly identifiable, although not necessarily by name. If even a small group understands who the article is about, it still counts as libel.
- **Injury:** Damage to the reputation of the libeled person can occur even if only a small number of people understood the libel.
- **Fault:** Although fault is based on circumstance, it is generally understood that a private individual can claim damages if a reporter did not adequately verify a story before printing it, while a public figure can claim damages only if they can prove that the journalist acted with malice or with reckless disregard of the truth. While movie stars and popular music artists are obvious public figures, some state supreme courts have ruled that teachers and even students, are public figures in cases involving student newspapers.

### **Invasion of Privacy**

Everyone has the right to privacy unless they waive that right. The different forms of Invasion of Privacy are intrusion, false light, private, embarrassing information and appropriation.

- **Intrusion:** Intrusion involves unwelcome entry in some way into a private area (e.g., taking a picture of someone at their home without their consent.) People in public places, however, have no expectation of privacy (e.g., taking a picture of someone at school). You can also intrude into someone's privacy by quoting them or by taping your conversation with them without their consent. Although an informed minor can give consent, this consent has been challenged in court. If the material is controversial, get the minor's parents to sign a release form. Quoting a third party without his/her/their consent is also intrusion (e.g., "Ralin said that Tanya is on crack," Andrea said).
- **False Light:** False Light is taking true information but presenting it so that the article implies something false. This is extremely important in news and feature articles (i.e., presenting only facts that support one side of a story, including photographs of innocent people so that it seems like they are doing something wrong.)
- **Private, Embarrassing Information:** Any type of private, embarrassing information should only be used if the information is newsworthy. If this is the case, consent from all parties involved must be obtained. Documents such as school reports and medical reports are private and journalists have no right to reveal information from these types of sources.
- **Appropriation:** Appropriation is the unauthorized use of someone's name or photograph for commercial purposes without written consent.

### **Obscenity**

Supreme Court decisions grant school administrations the right to censor vulgar language and allow schools to set a standard for public conduct. Questionable language or innuendoes are subject to censorship by all editors, Program Specialists, and advisors.

- When writing a story or editing a page, keep everything LEGAL.
- Get consent from all persons you quote, both directly and indirectly.
- Exterminate all bias and opinion in every news stories and present all sides of a story fairly.
- Go over any humorous remarks since a remark can be considered libelous if others might interpret it as malicious.

- Accept a quote for your story or page only after double-checking that the facts of the quote are accurate. The quote must also be accurately recorded (if you're not sure, reading back what you wrote is a good way to make sure the source is being correctly represented).
- Label all staged photos clearly and in large print.

## Question Starters

If you're looking for the following types of information, ask questions that use these words:

### FACTS

name	locate
define	relate
memorize	know
repeat	match
record	state
list	write
recall	recognize

### COMPREHENSION

discuss	identify
describe	infer
estimate	report
give examples	review
explain	summarize
restate	predict
express	draw

### APPLICATION

translate	practice
interpret	illustrate
apply	operate
use	shop
employ	sketch
dramatize	schedule
demonstrate	solve
show	

### ANALYSIS

classify	contrast
distinguish	diagram
sort	inspect
categorize	debate
differentiate	inventory
calculate	question
experiment	relate
compare	examine
test	criticize

### SYNTHESIS

compose	construct
plan	collect
propose	set up
create	develop
design	organize
formulate	manage
arrange	produce
assemble	revise
prepare	originate

### EVALUATION

appraise	score
evaluate	select
rate	assess
value	estimate
measure	justify
revise	discuss
decide	debate
choose	recommend

# WRITING

## Step 4 – WRITE YOUR FIRST DRAFT

It is recommended that you prepare a draft of your media piece in order to make it easier to get feedback from peers and leaders. Compose your article in your word processing program of choice, referencing the template at the end of this section.

Once you have completed your first draft, pass it along to some peers, your Delegation Director, and/or your advisors. Ask them to edit it and give you feedback. The more people who can read your Status Report and give you suggestions, the clearer it will be for Youth in Government!

The following tips are based on general information you need to know to write your broadcast piece. There are also a few more specific tip sheets on writing different types of newspaper articles.

### WHAT MAKES NEWS WRITING DIFFERENT?

Writing journalistic stories differs from writing essays or term papers in very specific ways, and you must keep this in mind when you begin:

- For newspaper articles, because columns are so narrow and can be hard to read if they are very long, paragraphs tend to be short – no more than 50 words.
- Because paragraphs are so short, whole ideas are not developed in each paragraph as they may be in a conventional school essay or term paper.
- Quotes are typically put in a separate paragraph to help them stand out and make them easier to read.
- All journalistic writing is very active (explained later).
- Writers must work especially hard to “get to the point” because there is far less space/time to do it in.
- Instead of having a title paragraph and thesis, the two are combined in what is known as a “lead.”

### MORE PLANNING!

- Decide main points
- Decide on organization (more details coming up!)
  - inverted pyramid
  - lead plus relevant facts
  - chronological
  - narrative
  - other??
- What is the point of the story?
- What is the central idea?
- What is the appropriate focus for emphasis

## Basic Writing Rules

- 1) Remember the 5 Ws and H (who, what, when, where, why, how). If you don't have all the answers to these questions, then you aren't ready to start writing your story (See "Step 1-Decide What Type of Story You Want to Write" earlier in this packet and "Tips for Writing News Stories")
- 2) Always be clear and concise in your writing. If you confuse the reader with long, complicated excessive wordiness and illogical ordering of information, you have defeated your goal of trying to convey information and/or opinion.
- 3) Always write active sentences. This is sometimes a little tricky. In other words, always try to write as if something is happening now, not yesterday, not two weeks ago. And always write as if the object of your sentence is performing some action, not having some action performed on it. For example:
  - a) "The carton was delivered by United Postal Service." – passive
  - b) "UPS delivered the carton." – active

BUT a sentence becomes even better if it can be worded more actively, as if the action is presently occurring:

  - c) "The weather watch plane reported a hurricane." active, but boring
  - d) Reporting hurricane conditions, weather watch planes continue to keep an eye open." – more active, better
- 4) Always write short, direct sentences. Long sentences look even longer and confusing when they are typeset in small type and narrow columns. They are distracting to the reader.
- 5) Always write short paragraphs. If the sentences are short (10 words), short paragraphs will follow. Each paragraph should be a complete thought.
- 6) Always write in 3rd person. This is a common fault of many beginning writers. Never use "I," "me," or "you" in a news story. "He," "she," "it," and "they" are the appropriate pronouns. You should never refer to yourself in a news story and RARELY in a features story unless it is creative writing or a special interview. (Note: in many entertainment magazines the reporter will refer to his or her surroundings and experiences as s/he interviews a celebrity).
  - a) Special Consideration: You would not follow this guideline if you are writing an opinions article or a review that requires your personal statement!
- 7) Use neutral terms when possible. A good reporter knows that simply using certain verbs and adjectives that have certain negative or positive connotations can change the tone of the story and express an opinion without coming right out and stating it.
  - a) Consider the following:
    - i) "Lecturing to a full hall, the professor explained the ramifications of not studying." – neutral, okay
    - ii) "Lecturing to a full hall, the professor droned on about the ramification of..." – negative, BAD
- 8) Use good grammar and appropriate language. Slang terms are only useful in stories about slang. Sexually suggestive language or terms are NEVER appropriate. Words, nicknames, or adjectives meant to embarrass or hurt another person are NEVER appropriate.

- 9) Read through your story before you turn it in! Make sure it makes sense to you, because if it doesn't it will NEVER make sense to anyone else. AND, when you type a story into the computer, read through it before you consider yourself finished and make sure it is right.
- 10) Refer to your tips on getting started before you begin to write (listed in "Step 1").

## Writing News Articles & Stories

A news story is not about opinion or conjecture, it is about facts: WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHY, WHEN, and HOW of a subject. Stories should be constructed using the 5W's and H. News writing shows no bias – it should only present the facts on a given subject. Facts may be provided in a variety of highly innovative ways and angles, but the story should still strive to present the basic five Ws accurately and economically. Long descriptions of scenery or poetic verbiage are not the goals of a news story.

**The most important part of any news story is the LEAD, or introductory paragraph. Leads should:**

- Attract people's attention.
- Be 28-32 words (in 1 to 3 sentences) – NO MORE!
- Include answers to the five Ws and H (Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How).
- Be a quick round-up of major facts of story.

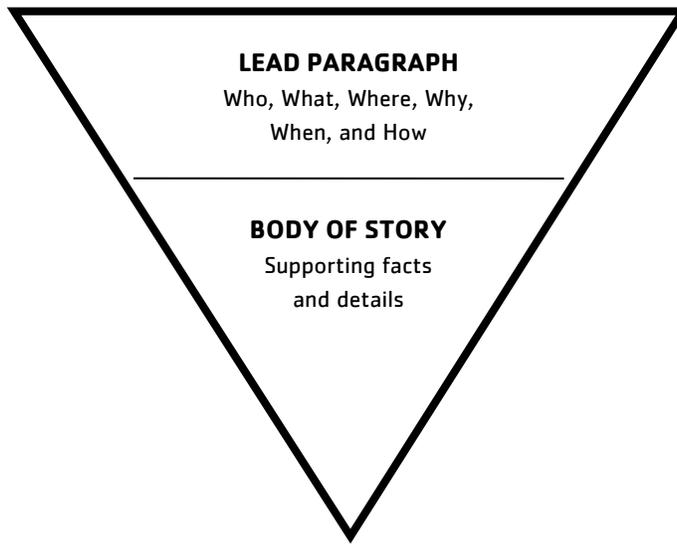
## SIX TYPES OF LEADS AND THEIR USES

1. Summary of "5 W's"
  - use when creating news
  - who, what, where, when, why
  - don't forget "how" - important for any analysis
  - list most important facts
2. Quotation
  - use when creating feature news
  - interesting attention-grabber
3. Punch or astonisher
  - use when reporting tragedies or disasters
  - shocking statement or fact
4. Contrast
  - use in pure analysis - seldom used
  - link two seemingly separate events or ideas
5. Question
  - use in feature news creation
  - ask question that makes audience want to find answer
6. Descriptive or Narrative
  - use in feature news creation
  - describe background of an event

## KEEP THESE POINTS IN MIND WHEN CREATING YOUR LEAD

- Make it concise.
- Use simple sentences.
- Use strong verbs.
- Don't begin with "When" or "Where."
- Don't use clichés.
- BE CREATIVE - TRY TO DO SOMETHING THAT HAS NOT BEEN DONE BEFORE!!

The lead should allow your story to be constructed in a specific shape, the INVERTED PYRAMID. Place the answers to the questions Who, What, Where, When, Why and How at the top, and the details underneath. The body of your story should support the information provided briefly in the lead, fully describing and exploring the subject. News stories deal in the PRESENT – they are event-related and should be written to inform the reader.



## Writing Editorial Articles & Stories

Opinions and editorials can be one of the most enjoyable story formats in which to express your ideas and creativity. These features and stories are statements that give personal views or try to persuade the audience. In Youth in Government, we encourage you to be controversial and innovative, but we also ask you to remember the spirit of the program and keep in the mind the Y's four core values (Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility).

If you are assigned an opinion article, it should be written with the following Youth in Government Press Guidelines in mind:

1. No articles may be written with the purpose of slandering an individual, group, or delegation, or using specific details for the purpose of simply slamming or criticizing policies, procedures or behavior you don't like.

2. No articles may be written with inflammatory or profane language of ANY KIND.
3. No activity, policy, procedure, etc. should be criticized WITHOUT offering a solution. For example, perhaps you didn't like the food at the conference. So what. Anyone can complain. Be specific in your concerns. Interview the catering company about how and why they make their choices. Offer suggestions for improvement.

Suggestions on how to write your editorial:

1. Lead with an objective explanation of the issue/controversy. Include the five Ws and H, pull in quotes from available sources, and do additional research if needed.
2. Present your argument first. Express the viewpoints that you, as a writer, disagree with. Identify the people or groups that specifically oppose you and use FACTS and QUOTES to objectively state their opinions.
3. Directly refute your opposition. Pull in other facts and quotes from people that support your viewpoint and concede a valid point of the opposition which will make yours appear rational.
4. Give other original arguments in defense of your position.
5. Conclude your editorial with some PUNCH. Give solutions to the problem.

Opinion writing should include the following structure:

- The introduction should begin with a general statement and narrow to a thesis.
- You could also begin with a concession. For example, "Admittedly it is true that . . ." and then counter the concession with, "...but..." or "...however."
- Your first argument should be your weakest pro argument, followed by a stronger pro argument, followed by your strongest pro argument.
- Your conclusion should end as it begins, with a general statement followed by a restatement of the thesis.

## Features Writing

This type of journalism is created in the style of short fiction and can be a tremendous amount of fun. These articles and stories are often longer than other types and should be written to entertain and explain. They are idea-related, meaning they center on a topic, person, or concept. They should include very colorful language and LOTS of QUOTES.

Format for Feature Stories

- Fun, catchy lead.
- Body copy with lots of quotes and is idea related.
- Conclusion that relates back to the beginning.

There are six different types of Features:

1. Human Interest – people and their troubles or successes
2. Personality – semi-biographical
3. Historical – past related to present

4. Explanatory – explain how/why something has happened
5. Analytical – dissect a problem
6. Entertainment

This type of writing can combine elements of news writing and editorial writing in a forum of very specific subject areas. For example, an entertainment story can be:

- A news story, if the reporter is simply giving information on a specific event.
- A feature story, if the reporter chooses to add adjectives to create a specific tone and profile in the story.
- Or even an editorial, if the reporter chooses to take a very clear positive or negative opinion toward the subject matter.

Consider also the kind of stories that make good features section pieces:

- Reviews of food, specific restaurants, things to do in and around the Capitol.
- Polls of delegates favorite movies or music groups to see if tastes vary by delegation.
- Reviews of new music.
- Whatever else your imagination comes up with.

When taking a definite stance on an issue, such as when writing a review, it is important to remember for now that this is a YMCA program—the publication and the page don't have to be dripping with malice for your piece to be an effective review. Since entertainment writing can be any and all of these styles, the next step for you is to review the news writing, features and editorial tips in this manual.

## **All Articles & Stories**

While we may be stating the obvious, all stories and articles should have a BEGINNING, MIDDLE and END.

The beginning and ending part of your story are very important. When you begin writing keep these simple steps in mind:

1. Be simple. You don't want to confuse the reader—you want to captivate. Clear, concise wording is vital.
2. Be relevant. Say you are writing a story on the staff of the hotel and what they endure while Youth in Government is there. However, your lead is all about how the halls of the capitol building reverberate with the shouts and laughter of delegates on their way to session. Although interesting and creative, your lead is not representative of what the story is about.
3. Have focus. With certain exceptions, the example chosen for the lead should illustrate a key section of the story. Because the reader is conditioned by the lead, s/he expects the opening example to relate to an important matter treated fully in the body of the story.

Using all the components mentioned earlier the body of the story should fully explain the concepts presented in the lead.

## WRITING YOUR CONCLUSION

With your lead establishing the tone of the story and the body fully fleshing out the subject, it is time to end your piece. Ending a journalistic story can be much different than writing a conclusion paragraph for a paper. Though it may seem strange at first, for news and opinion stories you may just end where you are – no firm conclusion is necessary. For features and entertainment stories however, you may employ one of three techniques to finish off the story:

- **Circling Back:** This kind of ending reminds the reader of the central message or key elements of the story.
- **Looking Ahead:** Sometimes speculating on the future of the subject matter proves interesting to the reader and encourages further thought.
- **Spreading Out:** Even though earlier you were told to keep the focus of your story tight and constantly in mind, giving the reader something to think about at the end of the story by extrapolating makes the story bigger than it was before, something worth remembering. To be effective, though, the reporter must be extremely comfortable with the subject and with the story on the whole.

## An Approach To Style

Modified from The Elements of Style by William Strunk and E.B. White

1. Place yourself in the background.
2. Work from a suitable design.
3. Create with nouns and verbs.
4. Revise and rewrite.
5. Do not overwrite.
6. Do not overstate.
7. Avoid the use of qualifiers.
8. Do not affect a breezy manner.
9. Be creative.
10. Do not explain too much.
11. Have fun creating your story.
12. Make sure the audience knows who is "speaking".
13. Avoid fancy words.
14. Do not use dialect unless your ear is good.
15. Be clear.
16. Do not inject opinion (unless the piece is an editorial or OpEd).
17. Use figures of speech sparingly.
18. Do not take shortcuts at the cost of clarity.
19. Avoid foreign languages.
20. Prefer the standard to the offbeat.

# EDITING & PUBLISHING

## Step 5 – EDIT YOUR ARTICLE

This is a CRITICAL step in the process! Your article will go through a typical newspaper editing cycle. For the purpose of writing and submitting an article through your delegation, you would follow part one of this step and then turn it in to your Delegation Director. When you are at Youth in Government, you'll follow the other parts to this step.

- 1) The first step is your editing phase. You will want to read, re-read, and re-read your article again, to find any inconsistencies from spelling to grammar to organization. You can also ask a fellow reporter to read your article. In fact, sometimes it's better to have someone read it that doesn't know anything about your subject – they'll be able to give you honest feedback on the clarity of your story.
- 2) Once you are satisfied with the article, you are ready to submit it to your section editor. You must submit your article to the specific section editor who is responsible for your particular piece: News, Feature, Opinion, or Entertainment/Sports. Your section editor will give your article a close read, and if there are any changes or corrections to be made, he or she will return the article to you for revision (see Step 6 – Revise and Submit for more information). If your section editor approves the article, it will go through one more read.
- 3) Once your section editor is satisfied with the piece, he or she will pass the article on to the Copy Editor, who will give the article one last edit/review, prior to it going to the layout editors for placement in the newspaper. The Copy Editors have the final word for what goes into the paper and what does not. They may or may not defer to the opinion of a Media Program Specialist in cases of questionable material.

### How to Avoid Frustrating Your Editor:

- AVOID USING UNNECESSARY WORDS
  - in excess of = more than
  - for the purpose of = for
  - in order to = to
  - in addition to = also
  - during the time that = while
  - in the vicinity of = near
  - in the near future = soon
- AVOID VAGUE AND INDEFINITE REFERENCES
  - It was decided that (who decided?)
  - It is hoped that (who is hoping?)
  - It is interesting to note (to whom is it interesting?)
- AVOID REDUNDANCIES
  - is presently or currently = now
  - invited guests = uninvited people are not guests
  - basic fundamentals = fundamentals are basic
  - future plans = are plans ever made in the past?
  - yellow in color = yellow is a color
  - large in size = large always refers to size
  - true facts = if a statement is not true, it is not a fact

- AVOID WORDY NEGATIVES
  - INCORRECT: The program is not unlike the one they gave last month.
  - CORRECT: The program was similar to the one they gave last month.
- AVOID CLICHES
- AVOID EMPTY WORDS
  - Nice
  - Many
  - Somewhat
  - Very
  - Little
  - A lot
- AVOID JUDGMENT OF ADJECTIVES
  - It was a delightful performance (your opinion - others may not agree)
  - This will be an important meeting (you think it is - will others?)
- AVOID "-ING" WORDS
  - The orchestra will be playing for the dance = *The orchestra will play...*
  - Hearing the news, Sue rushed to tell her mother = *Sue heard the news and...*
- AVOID INACCURACIES & EXAGGERATION
  - His resignation was the result of ill health.  
(Death could be a result of ill health but could a resignation?)
  - The president appointed a committee that, hopefully, will raise the money.  
(Who hopes - the president, the committee or someone else?)
- AVOID PASSIVE VOICE
  - The program was planned by the students. = *The students planned...*
  - The refreshments were enjoyed by the students. = *The students enjoyed...*



## STEP 6 – SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

You are all done! After gotten feedback on a draft Status Report, you should write your final draft and submit it on Regy. You have been assigned a template on Regy. The template will have a text box. Copy the content from your text document and paste it into each corresponding text box.

Regy has the capabilities for back-and-forth editing. It is possible for a proposal to be reviewed by your Delegation Director and you may be given additional instructions/conditions to fulfill before the article can be submitted to the State Office for distribution at the conference.

Make sure you get your article submitted before the posted deadline, so your Delegation Director can review and make suggestions for final improvements. You can use this same process for your articles and stories while reporting at Youth in Government! Please be prompt in completing your article so you can be well-prepared for the conference. Plan ahead in case of technical difficulties.



**IF YOU DO NOT 'FINALIZE' YOUR ARTICLE AND SEND IT TO YOUR DELEGATION DIRECTOR, IT WILL NOT MAKE IT TO YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT.**

Please take care that you fully complete the process.

It is strongly encouraged that you bring a printed and digital version of your media article with you to Youth in Government, just in case something goes wrong.

## SAMPLE ARTICLE

Delegation Achieves Chevron - Albert Lea delegation receives lettering status

When walking down the halls of your designated school, possibly you and others are wearing letter jackets with a Youth in Government chevron on them. At Albert Lea High School, this will be the first year in many that this will happen.

"You see all the other schools with letters, and it's rewarding that we finally get to too," sophomore Chelsey Neihbur said. After two years of trying Chelsey, and some other delegates from Albert Lea got their community school board to approve Youth in Government as a school activity. However, this past year when they approached the board and asked if they were able to letter, the answer was surprising. They were denied the right to letter through the school because it was not as involved as the other activities that are allowed to letter.

"Nobody ever said it wasn't a good activity," Superintendent Dr. David Prescott said. However, it still did not pass. To most, this was very surprising because Dr. Prescott has had two children in the program; and of the six board members, two have children currently in Youth in Government.

"It makes it difficult [not being a school activity] but it's great that the group is still getting recognized," delegation director Dennis Dieser said. The delegation has decided to go out on their own and order a patch for Youth in Government without the school's support.

"Some students, even athletes, don't really care about lettering; but to some people it's a big deal, so I'm happy the students worked so hard to get it started," said Prescott. The downfall for the Albert Lea delegation though would be the restrictions of not lettering through the school. Without the school, they are not able to give out the chenille; so, a first time letterer would not be able to receive a jacket until they acquired a letter in another activity.

But even though there are some negatives to the situation, most people are thoroughly excited about this improvement.

"I would imagine that lettering would get the word out and more students would be interested in joining," Attorney General Alex Christiansen said.

"I think students will work harder, try to achieve more at Youth in Government and represent our delegation better," said Neihbur.

# ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

These are the people that will do any type of graphic design for the Media —from photography, to masthead design, to cartoons.

## WHAT MAKES GOOD ARTWORK?

### Medium

Because we produce our publication using laser printers and copiers, pen & ink and dark pencil artwork reproduces with the best clarity (i.e., line art on computers). If shading is used, the drawing must still be high contrast. Black and white with no gray tones is really the best.

### Content

Be creative! If you receive an assignment for something that you don't think that you can reasonably produce, what can you do? If you can't get exactly the drawing, what can you do that would be dynamic and draw interest to the page? HAVE FUN, but do not plan to do things that will be too time-consuming for you to produce. You may have multiple assignments every day that editors are counting on. Pace yourself and be realistic. You WILL NOT have multiple hours to complete each drawing.

## WHAT MAKES GOOD PHOTOGRAPHY FOR THE MEDIA?

### Contrast

Because we produce our publication using laser printers and copiers, photos MUST BE HIGH CONTRAST. Photos with lots of gray simply will muddy up too much when copied – meaning photos in the hotel lobbies, Supreme Court lobby, and hallways of the Capitol building simply will not turn out.

### Content

Dynamic! People shots! Close-ups! Try for action shots. Even if you are to shoot a location, try to include one or more delegates in the photo. Use advisors too. They like to see themselves in print also. Try for candid, fun shots because they are overwhelmingly the best and might even be usable elsewhere. If you receive an assignment for something that you don't think that you can reasonably produce, what can you do? If you can't get exactly the shot, what can you do that would be dynamic and draw interest to the page?

### Scheduling your Time

Plan your day effectively. You will have LOTS of assignments each day. Before you head out, draw yourself a map and figure out everything that you can possibly accomplish in each location so that you aren't constantly running all over the Capitol. And WEAR COMFORTABLE SHOES. You will definitely be on the move all day long.

# AT THE CONFERENCE

## **PRESS OPERATIONS AT YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT**

The Media sets up shop close to the action – usually in a specific location in the hotel and changing locations at the Capitol Complex. All Media delegates and advisors are required to work from these locations, with the exception of reporters and photographers who are on assignment in the field gathering information and taking photographs for various articles.

All equipment, including laptops, desktop publishing computers, laser printers and duplicating equipment are installed and working in the appropriate press office before the start of the conference.

All assignments for news articles, features, opinions, and photos are assigned from this location.

## **FIRST MEETING**

When the Media areas meets for the first time at the conference, the following happens:

- Youth in Government guidelines are reviewed, roll is taken, schedules and deadlines are reviewed, and everyone is then released to start their job.
  - Roles, such as lead editor, layout editor, reporter, and photographer will have already been assigned.
- Deadlines will have already been established, and everyone will know exactly what those deadlines are (The Media members work and meet deadlines based on schedules set by the Media Director and Media advisors.)
  - The Media schedule is based on the YIG conference schedule and tries to highlight the current day's activities.
  - Features, opinions, and classified advertising complement the daily news, to give the most complete newspaper possible for each edition.

## **DEADLINES! DEADLINES! DEADLINES!**

Meeting personal and team deadlines is key to the successful operation of any Media. That means meeting all deadlines for rough draft articles and photos, edited drafts and photos, rough and final draft layouts, and print production and distribution. It is very important to understand that a newspaper that is 90% finished but does not hit the streets on time, is no better than a newspaper that is only 10% finished. The ultimate goal of each edition is to meet the final delivery time. People at the conference will be expecting a newspaper at a given time each day, just like you expect a newspaper on your porch or in your driveway each morning.

Because the primary focus of each issue is on-time delivery, your primary responsibility is to meet your individual deadline. Without a total commitment from each individual, the paper runs the risk of not getting out on time, and a missed delivery schedule is a poor reflection on the entire group.

# NEXT YEAR

Before you pack up the daily reports and bill tracking forms, you should think about next year and what you might want to do.

*If you really enjoyed getting legislation passed...*

## **You may want to consider being a Lobbyist.**

A lobbyist is the person behind the scenes who pushes the legislative process. You probably had some experience with them in committees or debate this year, and hopefully you got to talk to your own teammates. Lobbyists represent clients, and they try and get certain bills to pass or fail depending on how it affects their client's interests. You can use all your debating and negotiating skills to convince legislators to think your way one-on-one, or you can organize campaigns about legislation to reach whole groups. Your primary focus is still legislation and you also get to use your debating skills. If you like networking, have a cause you believe in passionately, and love to convince others to join your cause, being a lobbyist might be right for you!

*If you like the debating and public speaking...*

## **You may want to consider being in the Court Program.**

The Court program gives you a lot of time to debate (our fancy word for arguing!). As an attorney, you represent one side of a case and try to convince a panel of judges that your arguments are better than the other side's. If you become a judge, you get to listen to the arguments of others and poke holes in them with your piercingly intelligent questions. It's all about the debate!

*If you really enjoyed the process of seeing laws be made ...*

## **You may want to consider being a Legislator.**

Legislators are the people who are in the forefront of the legislative process. They represent the people of the state and try to come up with ways that the government can serve them better – they make, change or get rid of laws. You get a chance to come up with your own good ideas for legislation and use all your debating skills to get your bills passed. Your primary focus is still legislation, but you get to speak and debate in groups more, like on the floor of the house and in committee. If you like coming up with new ideas, enjoy debating and speaking in public and want to improve our society, being a legislator may be right for you!

*If you liked seeing laws get made, but you're interested in debating national issues...*

## **You may want to consider being in the National Issues Forum**

Like the legislature, the National Issues Forum debates and discusses issues, and members work to pass proposals through. However, the National Issue Forum focuses on issues related to the federal government, while the legislature works on state issues.

*If you loved being a part of leadership of Youth in Government...*

**You may want to become an Elected Officer or Appointed Official**

**YOUTH OFFICERS – Grades 9 – 12**

Officers for the program are elected by participants in each program area at Youth in Government, to take office at the conclusion of the conference and complete their leadership the following January. Youth Officers preside in the program areas during YIG.

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS – Grades 9 – 12**

Shortly after Youth in Government, the newly elected Youth Officers appoint delegates to assist in the leadership of their program area. Some appointed positions include: Floor Leaders, Committee Chairs, Administrators, Press Secretaries, and Presiding Judges/Justices.