



AP 4500 Student News Media

Philosophy

College student news media are any news/feature publications issued under the name of the college, funded by the District, and produced by students as an integral part of instruction. It may include, but is not limited to, student newspaper reporting, broadcast news journalism, internet news journalism, podcasts, or social media platforms. The term "editorial" refers to all content other than advertising.

College student news media, as laboratory publications that are part of the instructional curriculum, shall provide forums to train students for professional careers. College student news media shall also serve the entire college community by reporting the news, including college events and activities, providing a forum for comment and criticism, and encouraging free expression as guaranteed in the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and California Ed Code.

College student news media are valuable aids in establishing and maintaining an atmosphere of free and responsible discussion. College student news media shall exercise editorial freedom in order to maintain their integrity as vehicles for free inquiry and free expression in the college community. The district shall not impose any prior restraint on the editorial content of the student media. At the same time, the editorial freedom of the college student news media shall entail corollary responsibilities.

Each college newspaper or other news medium is published as a learning experience, offered within the instructional program. The editorial and advertising materials published in each news medium, including any opinions expressed, are the responsibility of the student staff.

An editorial board that includes students should be formed for the news media involved. Under appropriate state and federal court decisions, these materials are free from prior restraint by virtue of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. These procedures are adopted so as to encourage a responsible exercise of such freedom.

Definition of a Grievance

A grievance is a complaint that alleges facts which, if true, would demonstrate a violation of the grievant's right to free inquiry, free speech, or fair treatment; contains allegations that appear to be substantially credible; and is not frivolous.

Journalism Grievance Procedures

Please see AP 5530 titled Student Rights and Grievances, which is the approved grievance procedure that students may utilize to formalize a complaint regarding the contents of the news media.



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References: U.S. Constitution, First Amendment
California Education Code Section 66301

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