

Journalists Seeking Larger Story

Students Represent Diversity In School Publications



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Diversity is a word beyond the subject of racism; it is the story and background behind people and how it all mixes in our world of so many differences. There are no two people in the world that grew up with the same background. But with every social background, there were obstacles that had to be challenged in order to overcome the struggles. Putting these struggles together create a personal story and experience to share with everyone. Student journalists around the nation use their own approach to push these stories beyond previous limits. "I think with every balanced story you need to incorporate diversity of opinions and

diversity of skin color and sexuality and other things. We try to do it to make sure we are avidly seeking out voice of different students...," Suncana Palvic, a student from Odyssey Media in Athens, Georgia said, "Everyone likes the the story of the football student or the story of the victory but it is really about going out of your comfort zone and just talking to as many people as possible". Other schools also partake including a wide range of ethnic and social groups. From random student writing activities to including everybody in their school media, the more voices that are heard the increase in understanding among a variety of adolescents.

"We like to do a thing called 300 word stories were you will do the bus driver or the kid sitting alone in the library or a random kid you don't know and you will go up and talk to them about what they

are doing, and how their life is going, and just an in depth conversation about them in general and I think that kind of goes about getting those diverse stories to go out of your comfort zone and out of your social circle," Luis Garcia, a Clarke Central High school in Athens Georgia, explained. There have been many cases in the last decade, where people have tried to remove monuments which represent history. These people claim that these statues represent inhumane acts towards their race. Others, some whose ancestors were on the other side of this argument, disagree claiming that history cannot be erased. "You had other people in town saying hey that's our history we need to really venerate that history. Over the course over three and a half weeks, she sought every angle of this story trying to have the most inform way on how to approach it. She

Anna Barrett (far left) and Klaria Holmes(left) interview Jasmin Lee (far right), a fellow attendee at the 2018 SIPA Convention. The two journalist are interviewing Lee for their competition piece. Photo by Kattie Iwanski.

was a vehicle for this story. She wasn't putting her sense on it."

However, students do not only categorize by diversity of race and personal morals, but also grades. The age difference and maturity levels between these teens also showcase difference in viewpoints and values in which journalists want to display to their audiences.

"We definitely make it a point to include different voices from different people of different backgrounds," Garcia continued, "We want to make sure that we go out and find seniors, juniors, freshman and sophomores"