



Breaking the stereotype:

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Triskaidekaphobia is the fear of the number 13, a dreaded number associated with bad luck. Like 13, the COC students have often been stereotyped and here are 13 misconceptions we'll set straight.

1. "Papasok kang Machete, lalabas kang Dyesebel"

Undeniably, the majority of COC students belong to the rainbow family, proven by the college's commitment to promoting gender equality. Because the college boldly accepts homosexuality and gender identity, it is often labeled as a "curse."

"Nakadepende pa rin 'yan sa pagkakakilala ng isang lalaki (o ng kahit sino) sa kanyang pagkatao. Kung alam mo sa sarili mo na isa kang tunay na lalaki, lalabas ka pa ring machete," Franz Embudo, a Journalism student, said. "Puwede mo naman putulin 'yong sumpa kung gusto mo," he added.

2. "MassComm-portable"

On the contrary, hardships abound the course. It is uncomfortable to stay up all night rendering a 30-minute video file, to write an unbiased article, or trade meals for interviews.

"They don't know the hardships of creating a production with your own ideas, concepts, money and gadgets, lalo na't hindi provided ng school 'yong gagamitin niyong equipment. You need to be resourceful," Angelica Callueng, a Broadcast Communication student, explained.

3. COCians are loud

NOT EVERYONE. "Iniisip kasi nila, kapag COCIAN, automatic maingay na agad. Try nilang bumisita sa Journn," Joyce Condat, a Journalism student, clarified.

4. "So, you will be a journalist?"

Mass Communication is a very flexible course. There are other careers Communication majors can pursue in production, public relations, advertising, and photography.

5. "Puro paganda lang"

COCians are known to be fashionistas with their OOTDs, something that has become a trademark for the college. Of course, we make use of cameras as a medium, but appearance is still not all there is.

"There are a lot of things that we can offer na walang kinalaman sa physical attributes natin like writing and researching skills. Kumbaga, versatile tayo," Danica Mae Domingo, a Communication Research student, said. "It's just that we can't help it na as much as possible gusto natin na presentable tayo tingnan. Stressed but well-dressed ganern," she added.

6. All you have to do is to write

Aside from writing, there are also other fields to explore in Mass Communication. We make video documentaries, productions, scripts, photo essays, and other multimedia works.

"Hindi kaya madali magsulat! Kahit wala ka nang mapiga na words, kailangan mong pilitin." Rein Tarinay from Bachelor of Arts in Journalism said.

7. "Puro dakdak, wala namang utak"

Ruth Giselle Reyes, a Broadcast Communication

13 Misconceptions in COC

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student, defends COCians on this misconception "Ang isang mag-aaral ng komunikasyon ay hindi lamang puro dakdak. Kung ang depinisyon [mo] ng dakdak ay mga balbal lamang na salita, ang depinisyon namin dito ay mga ideyang bumubuo ng karunungan."

8. If you want to be a cum laude, go to COC

For several years, COC listed successful graduates. This does not mean high grades are easy to come by in COC. Francis Ducusin, a Journalism alumnus, proves that even the path of a COCIAN "laude" graduate is no walk in the park.

"Wake up to those students who cannot accept that we really outshine," Ducusin said. "After all, it's not about the Latin Honors. High grades are just mere representation of your intelligence plus your perseverance. Staying grounded while pursuing your dreams and career will bring you the crowning glory of success," he added.

9. COCians are not mathematically inclined

"If you ask a COCIAN why s/he has taken the course, most would say, "Ayaw ko ng Math." Not all COCIANS share the same sentiment. Journalism student Norilyn de Guzman said it all boils down to the individual."

"I, for one, like numbers. It's beneficial for factual reporting in our field. We have to be masters of everything. Ika nga, marunong pero hindi magaling," De Guzman explained. "We can compute mentally the word count needed in each column allotted for us. That's given. Just because they're not numbers doesn't mean we're not mathematical. I can be analytical without having numbers. I can use math to support my reports."

10. Excellent communication skills

We are works in progress, we have weaknesses when communicating with others. Some Journalism students find it hard to verbally express themselves while some Broadcast Communication majors struggle to express themselves through writing.

11. Grammar Nazi

"Let the plural be pluralized. The English language doesn't deserve to be compromised," sang Reese Lansangan in "Grammar Nazi." We are not Nazis - we just care about good grammar."

"Kami sa AdPr, kapag may nakita kaming commercials or posters [with wrong grammar] naki-criticize din talaga namin 'yon nang hindi namamalayan. Nae-enjoy namin 'yong gan'on dahil pinalaki kaming gan'on," Rea Grace Reyes, an Advertising and Public Relations graduate, said.

12. You won't get a job in that major

"Walang pera sa media," or so they say, but for Journalism student Hermie Rivera. "Nasa tao pa rin 'yan kung gaano siya kadiskarte, on how far he is willing to go just to get what he want. Lahat nahihirapan sa simula"

13. "BA lang naman kayo"

Imagine a world without liberal arts. You do not like to live in a mechanical world, do you? The world will lose its harmony without liberal arts.

"Totoo naman, mas may potential na kumita at magka-pera sa mga BS courses pero hindi ako naniniwalang 'BA lang tayo'. Dahil walang formula sa pagiging artist, sa pagiging writer, at sa iba pang sakop ng BA degrees," Rein Tarinay said.

It is about time we end wrong beliefs and get a proper perspective. Superstitious belief or not, the above 13 prove COC is not riddled with bad luck.