Leeds Student Think Tank 1ˢᵗ Meeting

20/07/2023

0ᵗʰ Topic: Key

Red font indicates important actions we should be completing.

Black font is extra context and discussion we had.

1ˢᵗ Topic: Style Guide

- Total agreement on the existence of a style guide, i.e., a document which lays out aesthetic and linguistic conventions present amongst all writing.
- The style guide should draw inspiration from organisations and journals we are seeking to emulate, for example The Economist.

2ⁿᵈ Topic: Project Timeline

- Discussion centred mainly around whether or not we should aim for:
  - Two reports in the next academic year,
  - One report in the next academic year, to be released at the end of the school year, or
  - One report in the next academic year, and one 'trial report' to be completed before 2024
- We came to the conclusion that we should host a few writing workshops to ensure we know the capabilities of our members.
  - We can use this to generate ideas which will later be expanded upon and included in our final, end-of-year report.
- Nic plans to make a visual reference of the project timeline and share it with everyone.

3ʳᵈ Topic: Hosting Events

- Contacting speakers should start now. Most desirable speakers will be busy if we cut it too close.
- Archie added that it's easier to get speakers than it may seem – he was in his school's Labour party and they got a few MPs to give talks at his school without too much hassle.

Contacting potential speakers can be done by anyone of us. However, once the speaker has displayed a solid interest, we should pass the contact onto Ruby as she is the general event manager.

4ᵗʰ Topic: Social Media

- Our twitter will consist of promoting active engagement with the think tank, both with current members and other student bodies, e.g., polls, tweeting our different reports, encouraging debate, etc. When discussing different articles, we clearly vocalise the particular political bias.
- Our Instagram is mainly for promoting events, 'fun socials' and our reports/research.
- Our LinkedIn will be for "bullshit corporate messaging and showing off stuff no-one cares about" -Nic
- To attract a wide range of individuals, we are generally trying to keep our social media presence less ideologically argumentative, rather we will try to highlight different arguments.

Communicating with members will remain primarily on WhatsApp. We'll:

- Create a silent group on WhatsApp,
- Create a mailing list,
- Create a Facebook page for posting events
  - Even though most of us don't use it, we recognise that Facebook is still where a large percentage of people get updates for societies.

5th Topic: Hubert Kucharski

Hubert is currently doing an internship at the Studio of Economic Affairs. He also did an internship at Cambridge Market Insights. He is also the founder of the website The Backseat Economist.

He has shown interest in joining our society. Because of his experience with editing, we have decided to offer him the position of Chief Editor.

6th Topic: Website

The URL is currently: http://leedsthinktank.rf.gd/

This is not the final URL, we brainstormed the following:

- ltt.org.uk
- lttsoc.org.uk

A formal photo from everyone should be sent to Diogo, this is needed so that our 'team' section has all of our lovely faces on display.

The website will host our articles, reports, upcoming events, style guides, and social media.

A footer will be added to link to a contact email and all other social medias.

7Th Topic: Global Diplomatic Forum

This forum presents a great opportunity for networking; however, the tickets are very expensive.

We have decided we will not be attending.

8th Topic: Network of Think Tanks

We have an opportunity to join an international network of think tanks next year, the invite was extended to us by the Warwick think tank.

9th Topic: Report Name

Some think tanks, such as York and King's, have report names: 'Cortardo' and 'The Spectrum' respectively.

We are opting for a more formal approach, and will simply call our one 'The Leeds Think Tank Annual Report'.

This is because giving the report a very wacky name seems a bit silly and informal. Obviously if we release more than one per year the name will change to reflect that.