

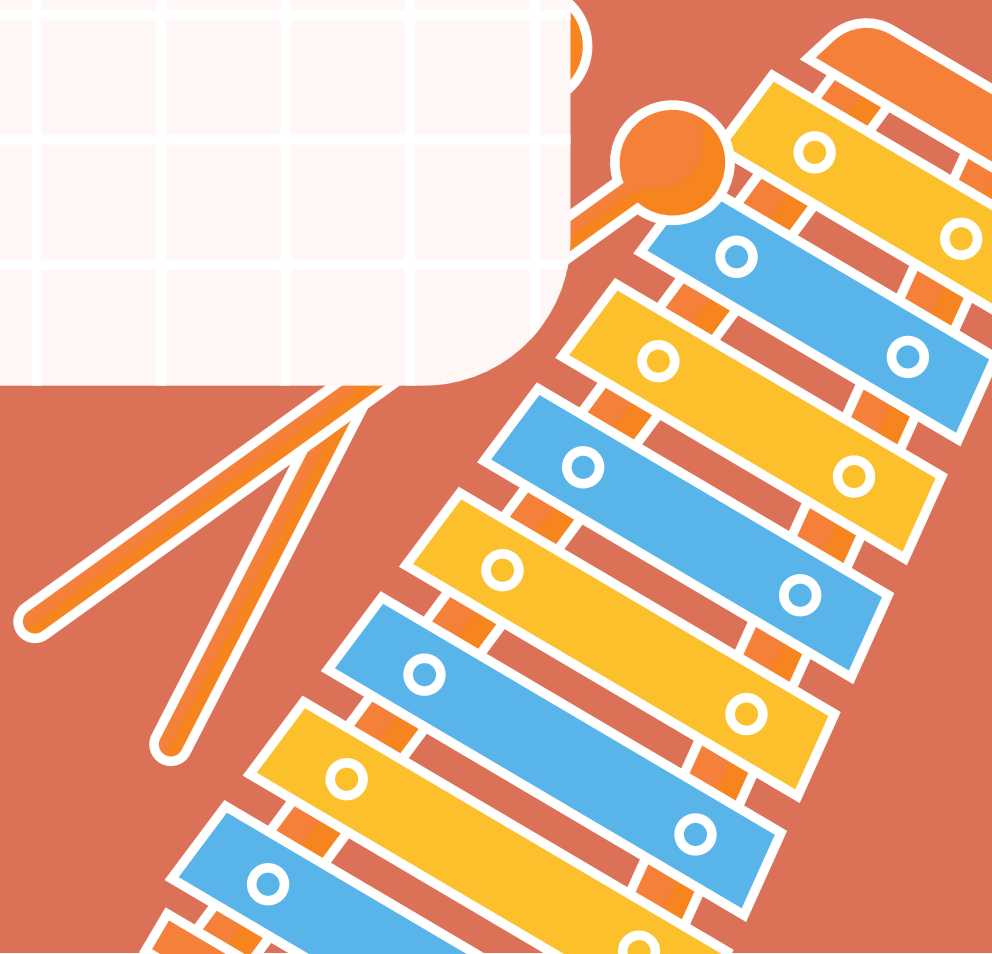


Reflection

For me, being a political being is being inclined to interact with others in society and involving myself with our nation. It's not just about protests and campaigns, but the choices we make daily as citizens. For us Filipino youth, active citizenship can be as small as taking the time to learn more about the political landscape in our country, sharing that knowledge with others, and staying open to different perspectives. Through this openness and awareness, we can make decisions that reflect the needs of our people.

Awareness itself is already a big step because indifference is the worst enemy of change. That's why I believe that as a UPM student, I am privileged to receive quality education funded by the masses, and I know it comes with responsibilities. It might sound harsh, but being in UP and choosing to stay politically unaware feels like turning your back on the people you helped you study here. After all, the activists and advocates from our school already speak up for those whose voices are ignored and silenced.

Like Rizal said, the youth are the hope of the nation. The older generations will eventually pass the torch, and we will be the next. That is why we need to stay informed and to use our knowledge to keep the country from sinking into deeper corruption and injustice. The youth of today are accepting this call, especially through digital spaces and social media. From there, we help inform the misinformed, and spread awareness about issues like poverty, red-tagging, climate change, and our education crisis.



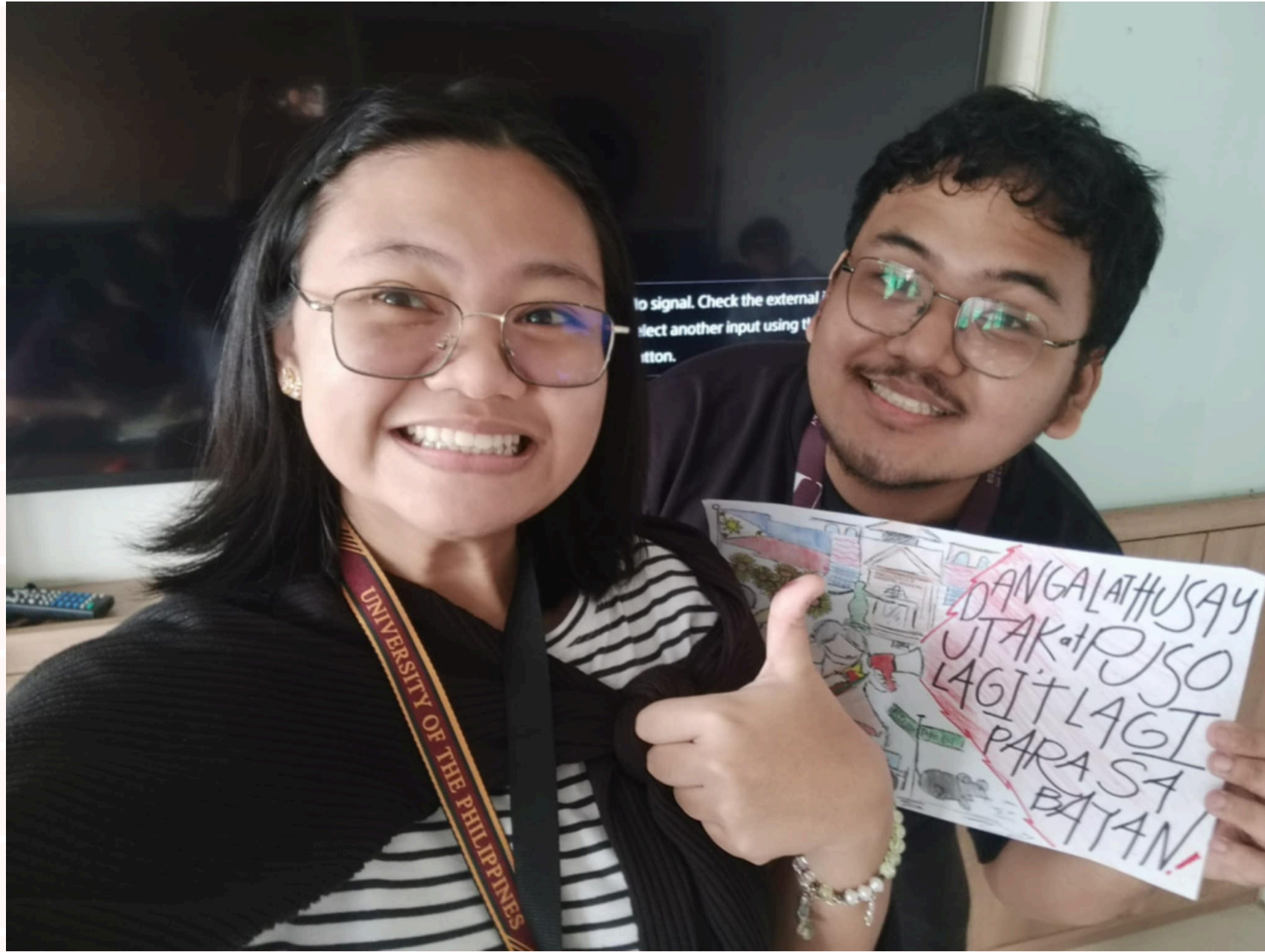


Reflection

I've learned a lot from UP. I'm more aware of how broken our systems are. I've never joined a rally, but I've made steps in my own way by sharing factual infographics online, spreading awareness, and making sure I vote wisely. My family doesn't talk about politics much, so most of my awareness comes from my peers and the media.

As a UPM student, I will use what I know, what I've learned, and what I am yet to learn to serve. I may not be in the frontlines like the activists, but I can still help in my own way by using my Computer Science degree in the future to improve the country's IT systems, and by working on digital solutions that serve the needs of the people. Yes, it's tempting to move abroad and find a job there, but even if the Philippines is hard to love and it has a lot of things wrong with it, I want to help.

Right now, I try to help by sharing verified information online, staying updated with current issues, and donating to foundations like Caritas with my family. In the future, I hope to get involved in more university-led or barangay-level projects. I don't think I'll ever be the type to join rallies, but I believe that there are other ways to serve. For me, that's also what active citizenship looks like.



Our work shows the culture of UPM students through the different elements like the jeep, the rat, the sablay, PGH, and the sunflowers. A woman wearing a sablay can also be seen protesting and shouting the core values of UP students in Filipino because Filipino language is the advocacy of Luzylle. My advocacy is for workers that is why there's a farmer and a nurse.

