

The Agora: Political Science Undergraduate Journal

I find that by putting things in writing I can understand them and see them a little more objectively...for words are merely tools and if you use the right ones you can actually put even your life in order, if you don't lie to yourself and use the wrong words.

~ Hunter S. Thompson, 1958

Welcome to the inaugural edition of *The Agora: Undergraduate Political Science Journal*. In the academic world, there are few avenues for undergraduate students to showcase their work outside of the classroom. It was in the process of planning our honours papers that this deficit of opportunity first became apparent, and since that time our editorial board has gone about the process of creating such a forum – the first of its kind in the Department of Political Science.

We believe that by emulating the peer review process carried out professional academia we can provide experiences to University of Alberta undergraduate students that will prepare them for the rigours of further study and writing. Beyond the practical experience provided by this publication, contributors will also have the gratification of seeing their work in a professional, published format.

With that in mind, we would like to extend thanks to everybody that has contributed to the success of *The Agora*. Specifically, Dr. Greg Anderson and Tara Mish in the Department of Political Science, and Leah Vanderjagt who set us up with the Online Journal System that is hosting our first issue. As well, to all the members of our editorial board, thank you all for your unique efforts in making this a success. Last but not least, we would like to thank those who contributed papers; without students willing to showcase their work, a project like this would not be possible.

The Agora Editorial Board



Tyler Dawson, Kelly Freer, Claire Himsl, Jen Melton, Dave Cherniak, Chris Berger, Brendon Legault, and Aaron Aitken

With reference to the Hunter S. Thompson quote at the top of the page, writing sustains the vitality of academia, and of political interaction both public and private. Without the dialogue developed by undergraduates, and nurtured through graduate programs and other institutions, it is safe to say that Canadian political discourse would be flaccid. It is only through writing, discussion and interaction that the potency of a democracy can be maintained.

This first step, this first issue, small as it might be, is our contribution to our democracy and to our undergraduate program.

Co-Founders and Senior Editors

