

Hong Kong's Rising Tension

Imagine not being able to vote for your leader and just having Congress say, "Here, we think these candidates are worthy of controlling the country. Pick from these three people you may or may not like." If I was a foreign news correspondent, I would like to be assigned to Hong Kong. I chose this location because my mother grew up there, and it is a major part of my heritage and ancestry. I would also like to publicize this issue because it is important to me as an Asian-American child. Not only is it an influential part of *my* life, it is a very under-appreciated part of the world. I would report on the pro-democracy protests and how they affect the city. I would interview protesters and anti-democracy supporters, because it is important to get all the sides of the story. I would also attend some protests to understand the role of the protesters more thoroughly. Most importantly, my motivation to report on this subject is the fact that it is a significant issue that should be addressed more openly and directly.

If I was a foreign news correspondent, I would report on the pro-democracy protests. This dispute is important because it is frustrating to have the government make all your major decisions, in essence, choosing the leader of your country. This is basically what is going on in Hong Kong. The primary protesters are Hong Kong college students and younger generations that have joined forces with political activists (Keady). The main reason for the protests is because Hong Kong was told that they could choose their leader in 2017, during the city's first democratic elections (Here, There, Everywhere). As it turns out, China changed their mind, so now the people of Hong Kong are extremely upset.

If I was a foreign news correspondent assigned to Hong Kong, I would gather information on the pro-democracy protests in a few different ways. Predominantly, I would like

to attend some protests to get firsthand experience. I would speak to pro-democracy protesters, anti-democracy supporters, in addition to Hong Kong and Chinese residents affected by this disagreement. If possible I would also interview Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying, one of the conflict's central figures. Because of his role in the issue, it would be fundamental to have his insight. Here are some questions I would ask every interviewed person:

- *What is your opinion or insight on this issue?*
- *Why is this issue significant to you?*
- *How would you like this issue to be resolved?*
- *Do you imagine this issue happening again in the future?*
- *How do you think future generations of Hong Kong residents will be affected by this event?*

These questions will help me understand all sides of the story and everyone's perspective on the issue. A problem with interviewing Hong Kong residents about their perspective on this issue would be the language barriers. I understand and speak some Mandarin and Cantonese, but not everyone in Hong Kong knows English. A big struggle that would go along with attending a protest is the police, who are using forces such as tear gas, pepper spray, and many other means of threatening protesters in order to end the rebellion.

I would like to cover stories of protests in Hong Kong for personal reasons, and because Hong Kong's economy is also at risk. This is important because half of Hong Kong's imports and exports go to or are from China. This affects both countries' economies, so any disagreement or dispute between them could mean bankrupt companies and millions of unemployed individuals. For example, according to the Observation of Economic Complexity, some of Hong

Kong's major exports are gold, silver, telephones, and jewelry. As a result, people in other parts of the world are able to give their husbands and wives iPhones, jewelry and watches as gifts. Since the protests have started, tensions are rising and jobs of people in both Hong Kong and China are on the line. This is why I would like to cover stories in Hong Kong.

So, in conclusion, I would like to be assigned to Hong Kong for many reasons, the most personal of which is the explicit fact that I am an Asian-American child who was brought up learning that it is important to stand up for issues you believe are unjust. I also think it is vital because it is an issue that should be addressed more directly. I think I speak for all of the Hong Kong protesters when I say that this is an imbalanced issue. I hope this essay promotes the protesters' argument in a positive way.

Works Cited

Keady, Cameron. "Protests in Hong Kong." *Time for Kids*, 1 Oct. 2014. Web. 23 Mar. 2015.

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