

Introduction to Journalism

Mrs. Bell

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Google Classroom code: 7cpf1

Course Description: This class is designed to teach students the skills necessary in communicating in the print media today with emphasis on writing, but including interviewing, observing, reporting, reacting and synthesizing. Students will be given the opportunity to discover and explore various forms of writing utilized in Journalism. Ethics, law and responsibility will also be discussed and applied to real life situations. Advanced skills such as interpretation, analysis, creativity and design will be developed in this laboratory setting. This class will follow the “Curriculum Guide for Beginning Journalism” compiled by the Journalism Education Association.

Units to be taught:

- A. Dynamics of Communication
- B. History of American Journalism
- C. Law and Ethics for the press
- D. The art of interviewing
- E. News: What is it and how to gather it
- F. Copy Editing: Learning style and editing skills
- G. Writing news leads and articles
- H. Opinion writing: columns, reviews and editorials
- I. Feature writing

J. Sports writing

K. Headline writing

L. Layout and design

M. Photojournalism

N. Advertising

O. Journalism careers

Expectations: Students are expected to come prepared to class with all handouts and materials supplied by the teacher. This is a fast-paced, creative course where students will be given freedom to learn and explore with discussion groups, lab time, and individual projects. Grades will be assigned based on a 4.0 point system. It is very important that students are self-motivated and diligent in meeting deadlines. This class is a recommended prerequisite for the newspaper and yearbook class.

Grading: Assignments will be graded on a weighted basis. Formative assignments will be 20% and Summative assignments will be 80% of the overall semester grade. Late homework will only be accepted for the current unit until the final assessment is given. Missing Summative assignments will be accepted within one week of the original due date with a late penalty. Extended absences will be considered on a case by case basis. Plagiarized assignments or cheating on assessments will result in a zero score and a discipline referral.

Suggested materials: You will need a 1 inch 3 ring binder for your journalism notebook. Please organize and label the dividers according to the units on the syllabus. We will be utilizing a variety of handouts and alternative information, so this notebook will serve as your “textbook” and study guide for all tests and assignments. Please bring a pen and notebook paper to every class.