

Journalism I

Mrs. Hernandez

Course Scope:

This one year course is designed for the study and practice of the basic elements of journalism with major emphasis in news gathering, writing, layout, and dissemination of news through mass media. Students will be required to participate in the production of a newspaper. This course fulfills the third English requirement for graduation, but it is not recommended that a student take this course as a fifth English credit.

Textbooks: *Journalism Today* by Donald L. Ferguson, Jim Patten and Bradley Wilson.

Course Goals:

1. Recognize and apply the basic elements of the news, news value, and vocabulary specific to journalistic writing.
2. Understand the various duties in news organizations.
3. Identify and utilize various news sources.
4. Recognize the components of and write quality news, features, editorial and sports appropriate to purpose and audience.
5. Formulate research questions; use a variety of sources to obtain information, weighs the evidence, draw valid, conclusions, and present finds.
6. Apply interview techniques and skills.
7. Determine the authenticity and relevance of researched material.
8. Use quoted and researched material appropriately.
9. Understand the ramifications of press law and ethics.
10. Practice layout and editing skills.
11. Explore the use of photography in journalism.
12. Produce a newspapers using desktop publishing.
13. Apply the writing process (prewriting, drafting, responding/sharing, revising, editing and evaluating).
14. Respond to the ideas and writing of others with respect and honesty.
15. Examine the writing of professional journalists as models for writing.
16. Write using standard English, grammar, usage, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.

Course Outline:

Semester One

News elements and value

News organizations and news sources

News story writing

Interviews

Quoted information

Feature writing

Sports story writing

Editorial
Headline writing
Press Law and ethics

Semester Two
Layout and design
Photography

Course Information/Assignments/Evaluation:

1. Journalism is a deadline driven writing course. There are specific writing rules that must be followed and deadlines that must be met in order to produce a newspaper. Each newspaper has advertisements from local and community businesses which make it vital those newspaper editions are produced on time.
2. Journalism students will be required to complete news assignments that meet the criteria for publication. Failure to complete or turn in news stories and/or skill building assignment on time will result in loss of or reduction of an assignment grade.
3. Journalism I student will be required to complete assignments that may require planning, research, and interviewing outside of class. Failure to complete or turn in a production assignment on time will result in loss of or reduction of an assignment grade.
4. Students will be asked to complete special projects that will enhance their journalistic skills. Special projects will be announced in advance. Grade for special projects will fall under the assignment category.
5. Students will be asked to assist in fundraising to raise the money for the printing of the newspaper. It is very costly to print the paper and requires constant fundraising to raise the funds.
6. Testing will be given periodically for assessment purposes. Test dates will be announced and students are responsible to note the date and prepare for the test. If a student misses a test due to absence they must come into class before or after school to make-up the test within three days of the absence.
7. Students will be required to keep a notebook for the class. The notebook will serve as their portfolio. Portfolio assessments will be conducted on a regular basis.
8. Attendance is an essential part of the educational setting and lack thereof can seriously affect your grade. If a student has a time sensitive assignment they must make arrangements to get the assignment to class by the deadline.

9. They can e-mail the assignment, fax or send the assignment with another student. There are times when an entire page cannot be worked on because a story or photo is missing. (Students can e-mail me at hernamn@interact.ccsd.net or fax the assignment attention to me at 799-3443.)

Make-up Procedures:

When a student is absent, the education experiences lost from class time are irretrievable and the instruction and interaction cannot be duplicated through makeup work (CCSD Regulation 5113). Make up work represents only a portion of the daily grade; for students with approved absences, the substance and grade value of make up work is subject to the teacher's discretion. Student with unapproved absences are entitled to make up work information, but will not receive any credit for participation work due to their truancy.

1. After any absence the student shall be required to initiate contact with school Instructors to obtain appropriate make up work within three school days directly following the students' return.
2. Within three days the student must discuss the missing work before school, or After school. The student must complete and turn in the missing work within three days. The work should be clearly labeled ABSENT on the top of the page.

* Any student exceeding 6 unapproved absences will lose his/her semester credit in this course.

Grading Policy:

Assessments of students' progress will be continuous throughout each quarter. Students' grades will be based on the following point system:

Daily Participation: 25% (punctuality, preparedness to work and conduct)

Homework/class work: 40%

Tests/quizzes: 35%

There will be no late work accepted. A student may turn in an assignment early, or by the end of the day on the due date.

Students are expected to write their name on all assignments. If a student neglects to write their name on an assignment no grade will be given for that assignment even if the assignment is identified by the student. It is the student's responsibility to remember to write their name on their assignment.

Students' grades will be calculated with the following formula:
Number of points student earned=student percentage/grade
Number of points possible in quarter

The following scale will be used to convert percentage grades into letter grades: A=90-100%, B= 80-89%, C= 70-79%, D= 60-69%, F= <60%.

Semester grades will be based on both quarter grades (40% each) and a semester exam worth 20%.

Classroom Behavior Expectations:

Just a few simple rules:

1. NO FOOD OR DRINK MAY BE SOLD OR CONSUMED IN CLASS
2. NO HEADS DOWN IN CLASS
3. NO LEAVING THE ROOM WITHOUT A SIGNED PLANNER
4. NO HANGING OUT OR LINING UP BY THE DOOR BEFORE THE BELL RINGS
5. NO INTERRUPTING OTHER WHILE THEY ARE TALKING, ONLY APPROPRIATE SCHOOL LANGUAGE WILL BE USED IN THE CLASSROOM

If a student chooses to break one of more of the above rules, the following progressive discipline plan will be followed:

1. Verbal warning
2. Phone call to parent or guardian
3. Referral

Students are expected to come to class prepared. If they must borrow something from another student it should be done before class starts, not during a discussion, etc.

If a student is tardy they will sign in and the progressive tardy policy used on campus will apply to the student. The following is the progressive tardy policy:

- 1st tardy = Student/Teacher conference
- 2nd tardy = Phone call home
- 3rd tardy = tardy assignment
- 4th tardy = Phone call home
- 5th tardy = Required Parent Conference

Students will not be allowed to leave the classroom to use the restroom without a planner. The hall pass portion of the planner must be attached to the rest of the planner, and I will only sign the hall pass portion not a "home made" hall pass. If there is a pattern of use with the hall pass parents will be notified and students will be encouraged to use the restroom only during passing period.

Students should expect to work until one minute before the bell rings. They should not pack up until instructed to do so. They should not write on their desk or treat any school district property disrespectfully.

Students are expected to be focused and ready learn at all times. Students completing work for another class will have that work taken away, and I will return it to the teacher that assigned it.

Students should not be writing notes during class. I will confiscate all notes and after three notes are collected I will send home a copy of the notes to the parent/guardian.

Suggested Supplies and Miscellaneous:

It is recommended that students bring their own CDs or jump drive to store their work.

Students and Parent/Guardians can check academic standing on Parent Link. On my teacher Web site there are resources such as: in class work calendar, homework calendar, handouts, notes, PowerPoints, and forms. There will also be times when pictures will be included.