

Fundamentals of News Writing (A.K.A: Journalism)

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Prep/Free hours - 3rd and 5th

Welcome to a new school year! I am looking forward to having you in my class and am also looking forward to teaching journalism for the second year.

What is this class about?

This class is designed to help students learn the value of journalism, communication, technical writing and technology in general. Much of what we focus on is not necessarily things you have been exposed to in your high school career. We will not be reading much literature or writing creatively. We will be reading newspapers from around the country, and in some cases the world. The focus is on journalism and putting together *The Purple and Gold*. We will start slowly, however, by second semester, we will hopefully be putting together a newspaper every two weeks. We will also study different types of media and the impact it has on our society.

What can I expect from my teacher?

You can expect to be treated with respect and honesty. I am concerned with making sure that each of you leaves this class with a better understanding of journalism and today's media. You can expect that I will listen to your concerns and problems with this class and I will try my best to resolve these issues. We will be working together as a team, much more so than in your other classes. Mutual respect is a must.

What will be expected from you?

You will be expected to show respect for all members of this class. It is important that you develop and demonstrate your ability to communicate with others. There are many times you will be expected to work in a group setting. This is an important skill students need to develop regardless if they are going to college, tech school or the workplace after graduation. You are expected to show up for class prepared (with pencil, paper, folder and the work that is due.) You are also expected to meet deadlines. If you are absent, you are expected to be responsible to determine what you have missed and to make up the assignments.

Grades

You will be graded on one consideration: your level of achievement; that is, how well you demonstrate what you've learned through your performance on the assignments and projects (*The Purple and Gold*). This makes student/teacher communication highly important to success.

A- Through his/her assignments, writing, discussion, participation and work, the student consistently demonstrates knowledge of the subject matter. The student has the ability to clearly communicate and logically support ideas and concepts he/she has learned in this course in an outstanding manner. *The student has not missed ANY newspaper deadlines.*

B- Through his/her assignments, writing, discussion, participation and work, the students consistently demonstrates knowledge of the subject matter. The student has the ability to clearly communicate and logically support ideas and concepts he/she has learned in this course in an outstanding manner. *The student has missed NO MORE THAN ONE newspaper deadline.*

C- Through his/her assignments, writing, discussion, participation and work, the student demonstrates an understanding of the subject matter. The student communicates and supports ideas and concepts he/she has learned in this course.

D- Through his/her assignments, writing, discussion, participation and work, the student demonstrates a basic understanding of the subject matter. At times, the student communicates and supports ideas he/she has learned in the course.

F - The student does not demonstrate understanding of the course concepts and/or has missing work needed to pass.

Mid-Quarterly Reports

The mid-quarterly report reflects progress toward completing the work of the course at approximately the middle of a grading period. All students will receive a mid-quarterly report. The two letter designations will be used.

S - the student is making satisfactory progress at the time of the mid-quarterly report.

U- the student is making unsatisfactory progress at the time of the mid-quarterly report.

The majority of your grade will be based on projects and the completion of the project, however there will be important assignments on the way there. For example, when putting together a newspaper, the completion of the newspaper will be roughly 50% of the grade, and the other 50% will be outlines, articles, layouts. Participation and attitude also count toward your grade.

FIRST QUARTER

We will be spending a considerable amount of time learning about newspapers and journalism. We will be studying bias, news styles, and writing techniques. We will begin writing some stories and putting together one newspaper. Much of first quarter will be selling and creating advertisements. The sooner we sell enough ads, the sooner we can start putting together the paper.

SECOND QUARTER

Publishing a school newspaper once a month

THIRD QUARTER

Publishing a school newspaper once a month

FOURTH QUARTER

Publishing a school newspaper once a month