2023 -2024 School Year : Journalism 1

Syllabus

Ms. Theresa George

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**Course Objective:**

The course of Journalism is designed to teach students the various forms of journalism, application and analysis of media, as well as writing skills. Students will engage in journalistic writing.

**Materials:**

Composition Notebook

Pens and Pencils

Notebook Paper

A folder with prongs

**Evaluation Criteria:**

Students will have a variety of methods to display mastery of the subject area and to show their effort and overall contributions to the class. The following are the criteria for grading:

* Cooperation in class with staff and peers
* Involvement in discussions
* Active roll in all class activities
* Being prepared for class
* Adherence to all class and school policies

**Graded Assignments:**

Quizzes (20%): Periodically students will be given quizzes over material covered in class.

Test/Projects (50%): At the end of each unit, students will take a test over the material covered during the unit.

Classwork (20%): Students will be required to keep a portfolio of all their class work. There will be periodic checks of the portfolio. At the end of each semester, folders (portfolios) will be taken and graded on the professionalism exhibited, the quality of work represented, and the level of mastery demonstrated by a rubric.

Participation: 10%

**Unit One: The News Article**

Topics to cover: What is a news article? How do we write a news article? What is Journalism Ethics?

Vocabulary: Lead, Headline, Bias, Code of Ethics, Objectivity

Writing Assignment: Students will write a review report after reading a news article on a local state, or national event.

**Unit Two: Writing a Good News Story**

Topics to Cover: What are the guidelines in writing a good news story? How do we gather and manage information? How do we find story ideas?

Vocabulary: Timeliness, Proximity, Relevance, Crisis and Conflict, Human Interest, Primary and Secondary Sources

Writing Assignment: Write a news story about MCHP, or an interesting story idea of your choice.

**Unit Three: The Feature Article and the Editor**

Topics to cover: How do feature articles differ from news articles? What sets editorials apart from other articles? How do we effectively write feature articles and editorials?

Vocabulary: Feature Article, Editorial, Credibility

WritingAssignment: Students will write one feature article on a teacher/administrator or a person of their choice. Students will write an editorial on a social topic of their choice.

**Unit Four: Writing Interviews**

Topics to cover: How do we formulate questions? How do we develop the art of asking interesting questions? What strategies do we use in taking notes and reporting?

Vocabulary:

Activity: Students will role-play an interview between a journalist and source. This will be a group task.

**Unit Five: Editing**

Topics to cover: What is the role of an editor? How do we edit a piece but keep the author’s unique voice and style? How does an editor choose what pieces stay and what pieces are left out? How do we format articles?

Vocabulary: Editor, Copy-Editing

Project: Students will take on the role of an editor and will edit 4 pieces of writing and provide detailed notes to the author. Then students will choose 3 articles to keep and will format those articles into a sports article for a newspaper.

**Special Focus: Yearbook Activities**

Yearbook activities will be an ongoing process throughout the semester. Students will form committees to work on the school yearbook with guidance from Ms. Carter, Ms. McGuinnes, and Ms. George.

**Plagiarism/Academic Dishonesty**

Any time you take someone else’s work and pass it off as your own, that is considered plagiarism. This includes copying and pasting something from the internet. Plagiarism is a very serious offense. In this class, you will be writing on a regular basis. If you are caught stealing someone else’s work, you will receive a zero on the assignment. If you are using material that is not your original thought or common knowledge, it should always be cited. Integrity is important in journalism. Other violations, such as copying someone else’s work in class or fabricating information, will also not be tolerated. You will need to abide by the ethical standards that journalists around the world adhere to.