



Department of Teaching & Learning
Parent/Student Course Information

Journalism I Grades 10-12
(LA1200)

Counselors are available to assist parents and students with course selections and career planning. Parents may arrange to meet with the counselor by calling the school's guidance department.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Journalism I course offers the terminology necessary for an understanding the basics of journalism: how it began, the First Amendment, basic reporting skills, and an introduction to digital journalism. The curriculum includes the study of the American newspaper past and present and the rights and responsibilities of the journalist.

The heart of the course involves learning about gathering and writing news. Class lesson assignments focus on writing in-depth news articles, feature stories, editorials, columns, reviews, and sports. Matters of style involve the students in proofreading. Copy reading practice improves the reporter's writing and develops the ability to edit, e.g., re-organize, reduce, re-focus in order to achieve clarity, conciseness, and completeness, or simply to make a story fit the space allocated in a layout.

Headlining, page makeup and design, photography, and the principles of advertising are other essentials of this course.

PREREQUISITE

None

REQUIRED STUDENT TEXTBOOK

News Reporting and Writing, Tenth Edition, Melvin Mencher

READING SELECTIONS

The reading selection includes variety of resources related to professional publications, broadcasters, and famous journalists.

ACTIVITIES

Individual writing

Discussing current events

Oral critiquing of newspapers and/or stories

Critiquing the work of fellow classmates

Small group interviewing

Large group interviewing

Researching in library and/or classroom

Taking photographs

Working in the darkroom

Typing stories

Rewriting stories

Creating advertisements

Layout activities

Headlining activities

MAJOR LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- 1.1 Indicate familiarity with the history and the legal and ethical aspects of journalism.**
 - E 1.1.1 Understand the concepts applicable to laws and ethics governing the press.
- 1.2 Learn the role of mass communication within our society and the world.**
 - E 1.2.1 Understand why mass communication is important to modern living.
- 1.3 Demonstrate proficiency in a variety of journalistic writing styles.**
 - E 1.3.1 Develop skills in news gathering.
 - E 1.3.2 Cultivate awareness of audience and purpose.
 - E 1.3.3 Write straight news articles, features, editorials, and commentaries consistent with journalistic standards.
 - E 1.3.4 Provide focus with appropriate captions and headlines.
- 1.4 Familiarize themselves with available resources pertaining to computer software, photography, and other technology which enhance production and increase the impact of the publication.**
 - E 1.4.1 Use available computer software and other technology in production of the publication.

Aaron C. Spence, Ed.D., Superintendent
Virginia Beach City Public Schools
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