

Journalism I Syllabus

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Course description: In this class, students will learn the basics of journalism and media (print, broadcast, and online). They will study all areas of the field of journalism, learning a broad variety of skills and applying them through creation of products. Students will also be reporters for our print publications at WHS.

Objectives

Students will:

- Explore the history of journalism as well as its future
- Be active staff members for Westwood's news outlets
- Understand, practice, and learn skills necessary to apply ethical and legal considerations to the field of journalism and beyond
- Generate ideas that suit both long-term and immediate news coverage
- Write copy, headlines, and captions
- Work with each other to improve one another's writing and editing skills
- Understand and practice solid design skills including photograph choice and page layout
- Practice basic principles of marketing, advertising, and sales

Curriculum plan (subject to change):

1st Quarter

The story of journalism

How newsrooms work

Reporting basics

 Writing stories

 Journalistic Style

Photography basics

Marketing/advertising basics

2nd Quarter

Ethics and the First Amendment

News writing style (Journalistic style; AP Stylebook)

Reporting/Writing stories

Basic design and layout of a newspaper

3rd Quarter

News writing and reporting (in-depth)

Feature writing and reporting (in-depth)

Sports writing and reporting (in-depth)

Editorial writing and reporting (in-depth)

Review writing and reporting (in-depth)

4th Quarter

Video production

Writing and reporting

Layout and design

Advertising and social media

Grading is based on:

- Class participation
 - Working as a team
 - Taking responsibility for your assignments/articles/pages
 - Taking notes
- Meeting deadlines
 - *Late work*: You are expected to complete all assignments on time.
 - *Interviews--zero if turned in after deadline
 - *Rough Drafts--zero if turned in after deadline
 - *Final Drafts--zero if turned in after deadline
 - *Photographs--zero if turned in after deadline
 - *Headlines/captions--zero if turned in after deadline
 - *General assignments--minus ten points per day
 - *Make-up work*: If you are absent, it is your responsibility to come to be and find out what you missed. However, deadlines stand regardless of your absence. If you cannot make your deadline due to absence or illness, you need to make arrangements prior to deadline.
 - Turn everything in on time and edit all to the best of your ability
- Writing and editing (both self and peer work)
 - Each spelling/grammar error is an automatic one-point deduction
 - Any misspelled names or titles is an automatic two-point deduction
 - All work should be as error-free as possible. Get in the habit of

checking and correcting your work.

- Final products
 - Quizzes and tests
 - Writing assignments
 - Projects (ie, marketing, design, sales, photography)

Basic rules & expectations

- Be on time
- Bring all necessary materials
- Pay attention, especially during teaching
- During production, you may listen to music but only if it's not a distraction
- Respect the classroom and everyone in it
- Make all assigned deadlines

**Entire syllabus subject to change*