

Journalism

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Course Overview:

This course will teach students the basic skills of news writing, reporting, editing and photojournalism. Students will be required to perform a variety of tasks over the course of the semester. By the end of the semester the classes will put together an online newspaper for Temima using the skills acquired and the work they have completed throughout the semester. Students will have a position on the staff newspaper, and will fill those positions during the second semester. During this course students will have the opportunity to explore many aspects of journalism, while connecting to the school in new ways.

Supplies:

- A small spiral notebook with a pocket folder, or a small 3-ring binder
- A blue or black pen and a colored pen
- A willingness and excitement to learn!

Grading and Assignments:

Attached to this syllabus is the calendar of both in-class assignments and out of class assignments for the entire semester. Students will be responsible for keeping up with assignments listed on the syllabus. A grade sheet with due dates is also attached.

Deadlines:

Being a journalism class, due dates are similar to deadlines. If for some reason you will be absent from class (absences are highly discouraged), you must turn in your assignment by e-mail or in advance. If you are sick, and you cannot send the assignment by e-mail, then the assignment must be put in my box on the day of return – regardless of if you have my class that day. Each day after that will result in points being deducted.

Pre-reading assignments:

I will be happy to proofread your assignments and make suggestions if you give me the assignments at least two days before the due date (Monday for 10th grade, Tuesday for 12th grade). You can do this by placing the paper in my box or e-mailing me. If you place the paper in my box, it is your responsibility to come find me to get the feedback.

Assignment Format:

All articles/writing assignments should be typed, double-spaced using 12-point font. Work not in this format will lose points. A word count will be given for most assignments and word processors will perform this function for you. Also, for ease of putting the newspaper, a copy should either be e-mailed to me or saved on a school computer.

Re-writes:

Every article turned in will receive a grade and editing marks (Don't worry EVERYONE'S will be edited). The grade will be based on the rubric given at the time of the assignment. Every article may be re-written in order to improve the grade. All of these re-writes may be turned in anytime before Winter Break.

Aug. 25
Class Introduction

Homework:
None.

Essential Questions:
What is journalism?
What are our goals for this course?
What are my expectations of you?
What are ethics journalists adhere to?

In Class Activity:
Searching for the truth. Creating a code of ethics.

Aug. 28
The School Newspaper

Homework:
None.

Essential Questions:
What is the purpose of the newspaper?
What are the factors that we need to consider to make it successful?

In Class Activity:
Write a mission statement for the newspaper as a class.

Sept. 4
Newswriting

Homework:
Come up with a list of 10 news story ideas that you think will fit the mission of our publication.

Essential Questions:
What is a news story?
What makes a news story different from an opinion, a feature, a review and other types of articles?
How do you decide what is a good subject for a news story?

In Class Activity:
Distinguish news stories from other types of stories.

Sept. 11
Newswriting II

Homework:
Write a news story using the story idea we chose. Due in final draft form at next class. 500-750 words

Essential Questions:
What are the essential elements of a news story?
How do you write a lead?
How do you use inverted pyramid structure effectively?

In Class Activity:
Read and evaluate some news stories.

Sept. 18
Feature Writing

Homework:
Write 10 story ideas that you think would be good feature stories for our publication.

Essential Questions:
What are typical feature stories like?
What is the difference between a feature story and a news story?
How do you find feature story ideas?
Who do you interview for feature stories? How do you conduct the interview?

In Class Activity:
Who do you interview for a feature story? Practice conducting interviews.

Sept. 25
Feature Writing II

Homework:
Work on feature story. Due Oct. 30. 1000-2500 words.

Essential Questions:
What is the structure of a feature story?
What types of creative leads can be used in feature stories?
How do kickers leave a lasting impression on the reader?

In Class Activity:

Practice writing leads and kickers.
Lay out the format of a feature story.

Oct. 23

Editing your writing

Homework:

Work on feature story. Due Oct. 30.
1000 - 2500 words.

Essential Questions:

What is AP Style? What are some major rules to know?
What are major editing marks?
How can you edit your work better?
How can you edit others work

In Class Activity:

Practice editing an article.

Oct. 30

Personality Profiles

Homework:

Write 10 story ideas for personality profiles.

Essential Questions:

What is a personality profile?
What makes someone a good subject for a personality profile?
How do good personality profiles implement "show, don't tell" to give readers insight into the subject?

In Class Activity:

Spy game. Practice -- show don't tell.

Nov. 6

Headline writing

Homework:

Personality profile due next week.

Essential Questions:

How do you write an effective headline?
What should headlines indicate to the readers?

In Class Activity:

Practice writing headlines on given stories. Write headlines for your own stories.

Nov. 13

Opinion Writing

Homework:

Write 10 story ideas for opinion pieces you would like to do. Remember, you must be an "expert" to have an opinion. You may choose to review a book also.

Essential Questions:

What is the difference between news and opinion?
What should opinion pieces convey?
How do you convey your opinion well?

In Class Activity:

Analyze personal columns of other editorial writers.

Nov. 20

Jobs at a newspaper

Homework:

Opinion piece due next class. 500 to 750 words.

Essential Questions:

What are the jobs at a newspaper?
What are the responsibilities of each job?

In Class Activity:

Read some newspaper employees descriptions of their jobs. Decide which job you would most like. You will apply for three jobs.

Dec. 4

Photojournalism

Homework:

Job applications and re-writes due in my box before Winter Break.

Essential Questions:

How do pictures and graphics help tell the story?
How do you write a cutline/caption for a photo?

In Class Activity:

Write cutlines and captions for given photos.

Dec. 11
Design

Homework:

Job applications and re-writes due in my box before Winter Break.

Essential Questions:

How does the layout of the page influence the reader?

What are important elements of design?

How does our paper being online effect the design.?

In Class Activity:

Examine some possibilities of how our newspaper will look online.

Dec. 18
Getting ready to publish

Homework:

None.

Essential Questions:

What do you need to get/ do to get your stories ready for publication?

In Class Activity:

Work on getting your stories ready for publication (take pictures, design graphics, edit, write cutlines.)

Jan. 8
Preparing to publish

In Class Activity:

Assign new jobs. Work on getting newspaper ready for publication.

Jan. 15
Preparing to Publish

Homework:

Final exam review.

In Class Activity:

Work on getting newspaper ready for publication.

Jan. 22
Going Live

In Class Activity:

Publish the newspaper!
Review for final exam.