

Journalism & Media Studies WHS 2017-18

Instructor: Ms. Snider

Room: K 108

Email: msnider@wusd.org

Course Outline

What is journalism? Most people understand that journalism has something to do with news, investigation, and opinion as presented through the mediums of newspapers, magazines, and television. But the modern conception of journalism has begun to shift, especially as websites, blogs, social media, and podcasts have become more common. In this course, you will learn about the practice of journalism and how it's shifted over the years.

What is media studies? This will be an introduction to media and communications. Topics of study:

- Advertisement
- News
- Magazine/Entertainment
- Music/Radio
- Television
- Film
- Social/Mobile
- Internet

Yearlong Plan

In the first semester, we will explore the Journalism industry and basic practices. We will enhance our reading and writing skills through the study of written and broadcast news. This will allow us to move into the second semester with a strong foundation.

In the second semester, we will study popular forms of media in a series of mini units in which we analyze the role and implications of media in today's society.

Plagiarism and Journalistic Integrity

Students are expected to be familiar with the WHS policies regarding academic dishonesty. All work produced by students must be completely original and accurate. It is crucial to get quotes and facts checked and approved for any and all assignments. If you ever need help with proper citation or quoting practices, see me ASAP.

Course Goals & Requirements

Expectations:

- Always bring pens/pencils/highlighters
- You will receive a Journalism notebook that will stay in class
- Check email and grades (Jupiter) often
- Communicate questions, concerns, and needs with me immediately

In class:

- Stay in your seat
- Absolutely no food or gum
- Phones will be off and away - This is a zero tolerance policy. You will have to pick your phone up in the office at the end of the school day if it is confiscated.
- This is a shared classroom. As guests you respect the space, keep your area extremely clean, never leave behind scraps or trash, and never touch any of the room's materials without permission.
- Respect for the instructor and your peers is of the utmost importance. As upperclassmen, you are expected to behave with maturity and act accordingly.

Grading

- Assignments - 35%
 - Reading Assignments, Interviews, and Editing Exercises
- Formal Writing and Ongoing Projects - 20%
 - Stories, Current Events, Interest Blog
- Semester Portfolios and Journalism Notebook -15%
- Participation and Work Ethic - 30%
 - Engagement in class, productivity, participation, teamwork, respect, self/peer/teacher evaluation, reliability, initiative, and follow through

Please review this syllabus and questionnaire with your student. It is due on the second day of class, Monday, August 21st. Thank you so much; I look forward to working with you and your student throughout the upcoming year.

We have reviewed this syllabus and understand the requirements of this course.

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Email and Phone Number

Student Signature

Date

Student's Email

Student Name: _____

1) Why did you sign up for this class?

2) What would you like to learn/practice/create this year in Journalism?

3) What are your strengths and weaknesses in English?

4) What are your strengths and weaknesses as a student or teammate?

5) Tell me about one piece of news that has interested you so far in 2017? What about this news perked your interest?