

Syllabus: Falcon Flash (Journalism)

Textbook: *Journalism Today!* and miscellaneous sources

**Requirements to have for class: -electronic binder to hold all articles/drafts, etc.
-one writer's notebook with folder

Course Objectives:

1. The students will be able to engage in critical thinking about how the media has adapted to the changes of society along with how a journalist functions and evaluates media, the law, and ethics.
2. The students will be able to gather the news, the sources for news, and conduct interviews.
3. The students will be able to learn the writing guidelines and style for journalists along with the editing and layout techniques applicable to the school newspaper.
4. The students will be able to improve upon their writing by means of self-expression, observation, and creativity.
5. The students will be able to enhance their knowledge of the process of reading journalism daily with a critical eye for style and accuracy.

Course Outline:

Section One: Writing Basics: Headlines, Leads, Story Development

Section Two: Writing for Digital Media

Section Three: Research and Writing

Section Four: Writing Features

Section Five: Writing Editorials

Section Six: Writing Sports

Course Procedures for Evaluation:

Website Expectations	=	25%
Print Publication	=	25%
Writing Journal	=	25%
Articles/Writing Projects	=	25%
Total	=	100%

(Note: J1's, J2's)

The Binder

Throughout the year, you are expected to keep all of your drafts for each article written for the paper in your binder in an organized manner. (Please have all of your articles/issues labeled as well as dated.) Your major grade each marking period comes from each issue that gets produced. Your articles will be reviewed and graded each time by organization, writing process procedure, and editing. Therefore, after the production of the paper is complete for each issue, you will be required to hand in your binder. You will then receive a grade out of 50 points for the articles/duties/participation for this issue.

****Note:** This is a great way to ensure a positive grade in the class.

However, this is also MANDATORY. If you do not have your articles in chronological progression in a binder, the outcome of your grade will be affected.

****Change for this year: Electronic**

The Writing Journal

The writing journal is a notebook which is going to help you improve your writing. You may think to yourself . . . This is journalism; we report the facts . . . we don't need to improve on our writing. On the contrary, everyone needs to improve upon their writing and this notebook will help you do so by not only observing but also by writing.

Here is how it works: As a journalist, I want you to read one article (of your choice) once a week. **(It must be done repetitively to ensure our progression of news reading and writing.)** *This year, we will be submitting article links and response to questions on CANVAS. You need to be sure to get your source approved before you turn your journal in. For each article, you will need to reflect and answer the following questions:

- 1.) What type of article is it?
- 2.) Why did you choose the article?
- 3.) What did you like about the way it was written?
- 4.) What didn't you like about the article?
- 5.) How could we apply some of the ideas/content of the article or writing strategies to those of *Falcon Flash*?

At the mid-point of the marking period, you must write one original article/reflection taken from the ideas/direction of one of these journal entries. Many of these original articles will become published for *The Falcon Flash*. You will repeat the process for the second half of the marking period, too.

***Essentially, your original piece is a prewriting (rough, rough draft) of a possible article.**

We often have problems deciding on what to write for the paper. In this way, it gives the staff multiple options as to what to put in the issues.

It is expected that the writing process be followed for all articles written including those that are not in the paper. Therefore, I would include all drafts and editing when submitting articles in journal or binder.

Writing Process---

Prewriting (Journaling of articles), Drafting (Developing Journal piece into something more), Revising (Improving Draft), Editing (Fixing/polishing draft), Publishing

At least once a month, we will have a journal discussion on articles we chose to read/reflect about, so it is crucial to keep up with the weekly requirement.

Becoming an avid newspaper reader will better us in becoming better news writers. It is critical that we scrutinize other newspapers in the hopes of interrogating their styles and improving on our own.

****Points:**

-Journal Completion:

-Each article is worth 5 points x 9 = 45 points/mk. period
(This would include the print out of the article along with the answers to the reflective questions.)

-Original Piece:

-Each original article is 10 pts. x 2 = 20 pts./mk. Period

Total points = 65 pts./mk. pd.

(Note: First Marking Period only eight entries for a total of 60.)

JOURNAL DUE DATES:

*****Journal Articles: Every Friday—9/9, 9/16, 9/23, 9/30, 10/6, 10/14, 10/21, 10/28***

*****Original Pieces: Midway and End—9/30, 10/28***

Class Requirements

*The Falcon Flash class is a unique class because it is not only a class but a club. We are expected not only to learn skills in writing, but we are also expected to produce a publication, and maintain a website for our school.

*Each year, The Falcon Flash fundraises to help defray costs of printing, website publishing, or any other miscellaneous costs. It is a requirement for you to participate in the fundraiser(s) as the money will benefit the entire class/curriculum in some way.

*In addition, the best learning does not always take place in the classroom. Therefore, field trips do occur. Field trips are also a requirement of the course; it is the expectation for each student to get something out of the experience and come back to apply the learned knowledge to the course and the publication.