



Fairfield Ludlowe High School - Fairfield Warde High School

INTRODUCTION TO JOURNALISM

Insert Teacher Name

Insert Room Number

Insert Full Year/Semester

Insert Period

Insert Email Address

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction to Journalism is a semester English elective which serves as the prerequisite to Advanced Journalism. This course enables the student to learn the important skills necessary to be a news reporter and journalistic writer. Students will learn how and why the press began in America and about the role of the free press in a democracy. Through an introduction to the journalistic code of ethics, students will explore the problems, philosophical questions, and issues that journalists face on the job. They will read and evaluate various examples of the news media and become familiar with bias and objectivity in the media. By the end of the course, students will learn the fundamentals of lead writing, news story development, news story organization, interviewing, gathering information, attributing sources, rewriting, editing, writing within a deadline as well as analyzing and evaluating. All language standards will be addressed through students' authentic writing as they create pieces that could also be considered for inclusion in the portfolio.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- define the role of journalism in a free and democratic society
- decide what is newsworthy and define what constitutes news
- discuss the role journalists play in shaping and understanding our world
- identify bias and develop a set of strategies for dealing with it
- define misinformation and discuss how it threatens the integrity of journalism
- evaluate news sources for credibility and information for veracity
- write original pieces of journalism and publish them

UNITS OF STUDY

- The Portfolio
- Unit 1: History's First Draft: Defining Journalism
- Unit 2: Can You Believe It? Media Literacy
- Unit 3: The Tools of Reporting: Gathering Information and Sources
- Unit 4: Let's Write! AP Style, Leads, and Format

COURSE POLICIES AND REQUIREMENTS

GRADING

Cumulative/ In- Progress Grading

- 10% of the grade will be based on formative assessments, homework completion, or behavior (see FPS BOE [Policy 6154.1AR](#))
- 90% will be based on assessments

End of Course Grade

- 80% of the overall course grade will reflect the student's mastery of course content and skills during the school year through the Cumulative/In-Progress Grade.
- 20% of the Semester course grade will be based on the Final Assessment.

In addition, please see [Policy 6146.1AR](#) for additional information on grade reporting and late work.

MATERIALS

Insert Course Materials Here (ie. Textbook, Binder, Calculator, Highlighters)

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

[FPS District Guidelines for use of A.I.](#)

Insert Course Expectations Here (including those for the use of AI in your class. See the AI guidelines for consistent language)

WRITING CONFERENCES

Writing conferences are meetings between an English teacher and student outside of class to discuss the student's work. They are an integral part of the Fairfield Public Schools' high school English program. Each student is required to participate in at least one writing conference per semester and at least three throughout the year.

When should students schedule conferences?

Writing conferences can occur during any stage of the writing process: generating ideas, gathering evidence, drafting, editing, revising, and reflecting. A student might use a writing conference to deepen understanding and hone skills, including conceptual understanding, logical thinking, organization, development of ideas, integration of support and detail, grammar, and/or mechanics. For some assignments, teachers might require students to schedule conferences. **For the first conference of the semester, I am happy to work with you on your ideas or drafts of College Application essays.**

How do students schedule conferences?

Sign up for Writing Conferences using the “Writing Conference” App on Classlink.

Can students schedule conferences to discuss reading assignments?

Yes. Developing and deepening an understanding of course content are inextricably connected to writing assignments.

Are students limited to three writing conferences each school year?

No. Students may schedule more than three writing conferences as long as teachers have room in their schedules and the opportunity to meet with all of their students.

Are writing conferences a part of English elective courses?

Yes. Students in English electives are expected to participate in writing conferences.