

Journalism Syllabus

North Dorchester High School

Room A100

Mr. Adam Wilson, Instructor

Planning Period: 1

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Course Description

Journalism is a course designed to assist students in learning the fundamentals of writing for mass media. Students will master journalistic techniques of writing, editing, and publishing a newspaper. **Selected students will also assist in all facets of yearbook production based on the student's journalism experience and work ethic.** The journalism course at NDHS is a "hands-on" course. The class is set up as a workshop atmosphere where several NDHS publications are created, including the NDHS Eagle, KENEU, and Eagle Newsletter. Students are selected for publication positions based on merit, not length of time in class. Upper level yearbook staff positions are granted to students after at least two years of A-level performance in Journalism I and II. Satisfactory performance in prior English classes is required for upperclassmen admission to this course; teacher recommendations are required for freshman admissions to this course.

Course Requirements

This course focuses on writing, writing, and more writing. You will need to develop exemplary time-management skills to meet deadlines. **Therefore, mature decisions need to be made and a positive work ethic needs to be developed.** Students will be assigned stories to write for the newspaper every week. There will also be reinforcement exercises along with Internet searches and special assignments given throughout the week to be kept in a journal and turned in every Friday. At times, Mr. Wilson will collect journals on unannounced days, so no time should ever be wasted!!

Units of Study

- Fundamentals of Journalistic Writing: Inverted Pyramid
- Fundamentals of Headline Writing
- Journalism and Ethics: Just the Facts
- Interviewing Techniques
- Importance of Accuracy and Deadlines
- Fundamentals of Photojournalism

Required Materials

- Pencils **OR** pens (blue or black ink only)
- NDHS Agenda
- Loose leaf paper or a notebook with detachable paper
- Notebook for interviews and daily journals
- A Flash Drive

Grading Policy

All assignments will be graded using a point system. Progress reports will be sent home on a regular basis. Assignments are broken down into the following categories and weighted in the following manner:

- Formative Assessments (class work, homework, etc) 40% of your final grade
- Summative Assessments (tests, quizzes, projects, etc.) 60% of your final grade

Guidelines for Success

- As you enter the classroom, take out blue or black pen, and be prepared to work. There should be no standing at the door or leaving once you have entered the classroom.
- Organize and plan your time carefully to meet all deadlines.
- Attend class every day, and do not be late.
- Raise your hand to be recognized and called upon by the teacher. There is to be no talking or getting out of your assigned seat unless Mr. Wilson grants you permission.
- Be prepared for class everyday with all required materials.
- Be quiet and attentive during announcements when applicable.
- Work hard on your daily assignments and meet all deadlines. **Work will not be accepted if you decide not to do your work in class. "I'll just do it at home" is not a valid excuse.**
- Do not touch things in the classroom that are not yours – let's be respectful of each other's belongings.
- No food, drinks, toys, cell phones, headphones, brushes, or makeup are to be brought to class. These items will be taken and given to the administration. Nothing should interfere with your learning potential!
- Complete each and every assignment to the best of your ability