Honors English 2: Journalism
Course Syllabus: 2018-2019

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Course Description

English 2 is the required 10th grade Communication Arts course in District 203. It is a year-long course in which reading, writing, speaking, and listening instruction is employed to help students become better consumers and users of language. In addition, English 2 was designed to help students meet the Common Core State Standards for Reading Literature, Reading Informational Text, Writing, Speaking and Listening, and Language. These standards will be taught and assessed throughout the year.

The journalism track of English 2 will accomplish all of the previously mentioned objectives, but with a focus on journalistic principles, reading materials, and both written and multimedia assignments.

English 2 will teach students the skills necessary to be college and career ready by the time they graduate high school. These skills will then be transferable to other language-related tasks students may encounter across the curriculum and in their adult lives. Skills specific to journalism will directly prepare students for positions on student-run school publications as well as personal social and multi-media publishing experiences.

Texts and Materials

Resources for this class will be in both print and digital forms. Some print resources will be on loan to you from the school, while some have been purchased with your course fees and are yours to keep.

Print texts for this course will include (but are not limited to):
Inside Reporting: A Practical Guide to the Craft of Journalism, 3rd edition, by Tim Harrower
The Elements of News Writing, 3rd edition, by James W. Kershner
The Associated Press Stylebook 2013, by The Associated Press
Various copies of individual works of fiction and non-fiction, as selected for reading throughout the year
Shakespeare
Newspapers, email news services, and news magazines

Print materials that are loaned to students by the school will be documented. Materials that are not returned when asked or are returned in poor condition will result in the student being billed to pay for replacement copies.

In addition to typically required classroom materials (such as writing utensils, papers and folders), the following items are recommended for this class:

- a pen and a pencil
- a portable notebook. Consider bringing one for class and one for reporting.
- a smartphone. Students who chose not to use a smartphone will be provided alternate equipment.

Units of Study: An Overview

There will be four units of study in this course. In each unit, students will explore the fundamentals of journalism and the journalism profession while simultaneously meeting the requirements of District 203’s units of study for English 2 as aligned with the Common Core State Standards.

Students will engage in the following activities to help them master the standards and skills:

- Read and respond to one extended text
Here is a brief overview of each unit.

Semester 1: The Fundamentals of Journalism

Unit I: Examining How Authors Craft Prose and Arguments
*Big Idea: Authors make purposeful choices to construct meaning.*
- Fiction/novel study
*Big Idea: Authors make judgments based on news values to convey information.*
- What is news?/ News quizzes
- Interviewing and news gathering
- News writing
- AP Style

Unit II: Examining Literary Genres and Works of Nonfiction
*Big Idea: Readers learn how to investigate different modes and genres with different lenses.*
- Long-form journalistic nonfiction study
*Big Idea: Journalists strive to emphasize the personal stories behind news events while upholding a professional code of ethics.*
- Feature writing
- First Amendment study
- Student press law and journalistic ethics

Semester II: The Profession of Journalism

Unit III: Examining Different Perspectives
*Big Idea: Journalists select the most appropriate medium to deliver opinions and convey information.*
- Opinion/editorial writing
- Team/in-depth reporting
- Multimedia reporting
- Social media etiquette and journalistic usage

Unit IV: Crafting Prose and Arguments
*Big Idea: Authors construct arguments with purpose.*
- Nonfiction study
- Creative nonfiction writing
- Persuasive speaking
*Big Idea: Journalists prioritize news events through their choices in covering them.*
- Review writing
- Media analysis: coverage, bias and spin

Assessments and Grading

Category Breakdown for Semester Grade:

- 90% Coursework
- 10% Final Exam
Category Breakdown for Coursework Grade:
- Writing: 50 percent
- Reading: 30 percent
- Speaking & Listening: 20 percent

Academic integrity and attendance.

The instructor of this course will follow the school policy. Students who pass off someone else’s work as their own should expect to receive all allowable consequences.

Revisions and retakes

Students may rewrite major journalism assignment provided they have turned in rough drafts and complete a reflection form. Many other assessments are eligible for a retake at 70 percent of the original grade.

A final thought:
In this course, I’m expecting you to be independent learners. Inform yourself. Go find things out on your own!