

Journalism and Mass Media
Instructor: Ms. Rains Room: Media Center
Sacred Heart High School

Books and Resources:

Journalism Today by Donald J. Ferguson
Introduction to Journalism by Dianne Smith

Required Materials:

Notebook, 3-Ring Binder w/ Sheet Protectors, Removable Flash Drive, Pens/Pencils,
Access to a television and/or newspaper for current events

Description:

Throughout modern history, people have depended on the mass media to spread the word about events and people of interest to the general public. This class is designed to introduce students to the exciting world of print and broadcast journalism. Law, ethics, and the history of journalism will complement the major units of study: reporting, writing, editing, management, teamwork, photojournalism, and design. This course will enable students to learn the craft of reporting, writing, and presenting the news. Students will focus on the philosophy of strong ethical journalism, the roles for publication, organizational and teamwork skills, and finally, the structural as well as business aspects of a school literary magazine. Students will also gain insight into other areas of mass media including television and radio production in which they will be expected to create a news piece for both mediums. Students will be presented with real world scenarios in order to fully understand the inner workings of these various media outlets. Students will be expected to write several different pieces in various styles of writing and their work will be compiled in a student literary magazine.

Course Requirements:

- Students must attend, be prepared, and participate in every class period.
- All students must bring ALL required materials to each class. Failure to do so will result with a 1 point deduction off daily grade.
- All students must maintain a portfolio of their work. This portfolio will be check twice a quarter and will count as a quiz grade.
- Students are to use the entire class for teacher assigned work.
- Students must attend outside events in relationship to their news stories. (i.e. games, dances, lectures, plays, concerts etc.)
- **When given the opportunity to access the computers, students are not allowed to go on the internet to use email/instant message, or to change any settings on any computer.** *There will be designated times in which students will be given permission to access the internet as related to their assignment.* If a student is found violating this rule, it will result with an automatic zero for a daily grade.
- Students are expected to conduct themselves appropriately when accessing the internet.
- Students are responsible for all notes, lectures, tests, quizzes, projects, and assignments that are missed. There is a 10 point deduction for daily assignments that are late, and a 15 point deduction for major assignments. Assignments that are more than 3 days late will result with a permanent zero.
- Do not print to printer in media center unless instructed to do so.

Course Gradings:

Projects: 35%
Tests: 25%
Homework: 5%

Classwork/Participation: 25%
Quizzes: 10%