

Course **Syllabus**

What you will learn in this course



ARTS, A/V TECHNOLOGY, & COMMUNICATIONS

Middle School Journalism 1a

Introduction

MIDDLE SCHOOL JOURNALISM 1A: INTRODUCTION

Are you someone who likes to get the story straight? Do you always want to know more? Who? What? When? Where? Why? How? Journalism provides us with the answers to these questions. The skill of a true journalist is knowing how to find these key facts and being able to write them up in a way that makes it easy for others to read. In Middle School Journalism 1a: Introduction, you'll learn the elements of a good news story, how to gather credible information, and how to organize that information into a newsworthy article that others will want to read.

Unit 1: What is Journalism?

In this unit, we will learn all about the world of journalism. We will discover what journalism is and who is involved in the process. We will also learn about different types of journalism and media, including newspapers, magazines, electronic media and photojournalism, and the different types of news they present.

What will you learn in this unit?

- Define journalism
- Discuss the purpose of journalism
- Define key terms such as reporter, editor, journalist and audience.
- Discuss the different type of journalism
- Identify different types of news
- Explain key roles in the world of journalism

UNIT 1 Assignments	
Assignment	Type
Unit 1 Text Questions	Homework
Unit 1 Project 1	Homework
Unit 1 Project 2	Homework
Unit 1 Discussion 1	Discussion
Unit 1 Discussion 2	Discussion
Unit 1 Quiz	Discussion

Unit 2: Analyzing Media

In this unit, we will discover why and how certain types of stories appear on the news. We will learn that while the news is supposed to stick to the facts, sometimes reporters include elements in the stories that are designed to help us think a certain way. By gaining an understanding of what makes something newsworthy and learning how to analyze the media, we will learn to look beyond those tricks and make our own decisions and judgments about the stories in the news.

What will you learn in this unit?

- Explain what makes a story newsworthy.
- Discuss elements of a good news story.
- Define and give examples of audience.
- Define and recognize bias.
- Discuss why reporters include opinions.
- Explain the role tone plays in a news story.

- Explain how to analyze a news story.

UNIT 2 Assignments	
Assignment	Type
Unit 2 Text Questions	Homework
Unit 2 Project 1	Homework
Unit 2 Project 2	Homework
Unit 2 Discussion 1	Discussion
Unit 2 Discussion 2	Discussion
Unit 2 Quiz	Discussion

Unit 3: Gathering Information

In this unit, we will discover how journalists gather information and the types of sources they use when reporting the news. We will also discover the importance of finding the right sources, avoiding sources that could lead reporters astray and focusing on finding credible sources of information. In order to report on the news, journalists must have news to report. We will learn how quality journalists find information and use those techniques to find information of our own.

What will you learn in this unit?

- Identify the difference between primary and secondary sources.
- Discuss the importance of gathering credible information.
- Explain the signs of sources that are not credible.
- Identify ways to gather information.
- Discuss ways to gather different types of information.
- Explain how journalists use the information they gather.
- Describe investigative journalism.

UNIT 3 Assignments

Assignment	Type
Unit 3 Text Questions	Homework
Unit 3 Project 1	Homework
Unit 3 Project 2	Homework
Unit 3 Discussion 1	Discussion
Unit 3 Discussion 2	Discussion
Unit 3 Quiz	Discussion

Middle School Journalism 1a Midterm Exam

- Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.
- Take a course exam based on material from the first three units in this course (Note: You will be able to open this exam only one time.)

MIDTERM Assignments	
Assignment	Type
Midterm Exam	Exam
Midterm Discussion	Discussion

Unit 4: Organizing Information

In this unit, we will learn how journalists take the information they have gathered and organize it so they can write an article. We will also discover the different types of articles journalists can write and the purposes they have for writing. This will help us understand why journalists choose particular organizational techniques. We will then be able to determine which organizational technique is best for each type of news story or purpose.

What will you learn in this unit?

- Identify different purposes journalists have for writing.
- Describe the two main types of news stories: hard news and soft news.
- Explain the different types of soft news.

- Describe how journalists determine what information is important.
- Discuss the components and role of a lead.
- Describe the two main organizational techniques for hard news.
- Explain which organizational technique is best for a particular article.
- Explain the pros and cons of each type of news story.
- Explain the pros and cons of each organizational technique.

UNIT 4 Assignments	
Assignment	Type
Unit 4 Text Questions	Homework
Unit 4 Project 1	Homework
Unit 4 Project 2	Homework
Unit 4 Discussion 1	Discussion
Unit 4 Discussion 2	Discussion
Unit 4 Quiz	Discussion

Unit 5: Writing an Article

In this unit, we will discover what goes into writing an article. We will review the main methods writers use to organize an article and then go over an article's most important parts. Articles must be written in a specific way, so we will learn how to write an article with the correct point of view and using an appropriate voice. This unit will also cover how journalists revise their articles and make sure they meet their deadlines.

What will you learn in this unit?

- Describe methods for organizing an article.
- Identify the main parts of an article.
- Explain how an article is written.
- Use third person point of view to write an article.
- Use active voice to write an article.
- Explain the purpose of deadlines.
- Describe how to revise an article.

- Discuss the difference between a story and an article.
- Identify quality headlines.

UNIT 5 Assignments	
Assignment	Type
Unit 5 Text Questions	Homework
Unit 5 Project 1	Homework
Unit 5 Project 2	Homework
Unit 5 Discussion 1	Discussion
Unit 5 Discussion 2	Discussion
Unit 5 Quiz	Discussion

Middle School Journalism 1a Final Exam

- Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.
- Take a course exam based on material from all units in this course. (Note: You will be able to open this exam only one time.)

FINAL Assignments	
Assignment	Type
Final Exam	Exam
Class Reflection Discussion	Discussion

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