

## Course Description

### Language Arts: Journalism\*\*

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The basics of journalism, including laws and ethics, freedom of the press and the principles of journalistic writing, are powerful tools. In the early 1970s, two Washington Post reporters uncovered a scandal known as Watergate and eventually a president was forced to resign. In this course, you'll learn how to generate story ideas, conduct an interview and then put it all together as you write both news and sports stories. You'll also be introduced to feature writing and editorials.

**PREREQUISITES:** Before enrolling in this course, you should be familiar with basic touch-typing fundamentals and have some experience working in a windows environment with a mouse. Obviously, you must have a good word processor like Microsoft Word.

**COURSE LENGTH:** 1/2 Credit

**REQUIRED TEXT:** Introduction to Journalism, McDougal Littell. ISBN- 9780618003778

#### **COURSE OUTLINE:**

##### **I. Course Introduction and What is Journalism?**

- Reading Course Information
- Activities Intro Assignment

##### **II. Finding Journalism Sites on the Web**

- Reading Assignments Area
- Activities Journalism Sites Assignments

##### **III. The Challenge of Journalism**

- Reading Chapter 1, pages 1-13
- Activities Challenge of Journalism Assignment

##### **IV. Laws, Ethics and Policy**

- Reading Chapter 2, pages 14-32
- Activities Censorship Writing Assignment  
Study Guide  
Unit Exam

##### **V. Types of News and Story Ideas**

- Reading Chapter 3, pages 33-42
- Activities Defining the News Worksheet  
Press Rating Assignment  
Unit Exam

##### **VI. Sources for News**

- Reading Chapter 4, pages 43-62
- Activities Sources Worksheet  
Internet Site Evaluation  
Unit Exam

## **VII. Types of Interviews and Interview Techniques**

- Reading Chapter 5, pages 63-80
- Activities Interviewing Worksheet
  - Live Interview
  - Unit Exam

## **VIII. Writing the News Story**

- Reading Chapter 6, pages 81-110
- Activities Story Lead Rewrite in Discussion Board
  - Inverted Pyramid Childhood Story
  - First News Story for MVS Online Newspaper

## **IX. Writing the Feature Story**

- Reading Chapter 10, pages 178-194
- Activities 1000 Word Example
  - Features Worksheet
  - Feature Story for Online Newspaper

## **X. Writing the Sport Story**

- Reading Chapter 13, pages 228-242
- Activities Sports Writing Worksheet
  - Big City Sports
  - Sports Story for Online Newspaper

## **XI. Writing an Editorial**

- Reading Chapter 11, pages 195-212
- Activities Editorial Worksheet
  - Internet Editorial Policies
  - Editorial for Online Newspaper

## **XII. Writing a Column**

- Reading Chapter 12, pages 213- 220
- Activities Final Story
  - Personal Experience Column