

# JOURNALISM 1

## CLASS DESCRIPTION

Journalism I is an introductory course to journalistic writing, design, editing, ethics, and production. Students will learn how to interview people and collect reliable information in order to write news, feature, and opinion stories. Students will develop their media design skills using Adobe Photoshop, InDesign, and Illustrator. We will also create visually appealing and compelling content for social media platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. We will look at professional media to see how they cover current events and how they use modern platforms to best reach and inform their audience. We will also evaluate the role of modern media in an effort to understand the evolution of news publications and the essential part they have played in American society. This course is a requirement for joining the newspaper or yearbook staffs.

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*class materials: Sarah-Kirksey.com*

*Google Classroom: g7o3bao*

## GRADING PROCEDURES

### **Design Projects and Stories 60%**

The majority of your grade will come from the longer stories you write and the major design projects we tackle. You can expect to write 4 longer stories, 2-3 pages over the course of the year. Once we start designing, you will have 4 larger design projects as well as an Instagram project.

### **In-Class Assignments/Homework/Project Prep 20%**

Much of our learning will take place through discussing, reading, and analyzing examples of quality journalism. The majority of our homework will be small pieces of writing, like a paragraph or two of practice writing, and prep for our larger stories, such as interview questions, transcriptions, and drafting. This class lays the foundation for creating deadline-focused writing habits so students feel prepared if they choose to join the newspaper or yearbook staff.

### **First 5 Lesson 10%**

Once a semester, every student will create a short presentation for the start of class with an example of exemplary journalistic writing, social media use, or design. Students can make Google Slideshows to display the piece or can choose to print out copies if the example is a story or design. We will draw for dates and explain expectations at the start of September.

### **Final Portfolio and Exam 10%**

At the end of first semester, students will submit a final portfolio of their stories and designs. Students will also take a final exam over AP style and journalistic writing basics. At the end of second semester, students will again submit a final portfolio of their best stories and designs from the year along with a resume.