

Journalism/Newspaper – Year at a Glance

Teacher: Ms. Williams

Course Overview:

This Journalism course introduces students to the principles, practices, and ethics of professional reporting. Students will explore news, feature, and opinion writing, photography and multimedia journalism, investigative reporting, and editing, while learning to research, write, and present stories across print and online platforms. The course emphasizes ethical reporting, diverse perspectives, and accuracy, culminating in a professional portfolio that showcases each student's best work. Assessments include writing exercises, interviews, multimedia projects, and peer feedback.

Module 1: Introduction to Journalism

- The role and significance of journalism in society
- History and evolution of journalism
- Ethical considerations and responsibilities of journalists

TEKS:

- **§110.62(1)(A):** Identify the history and development of American journalism through people and events
- **§110.62(1)(B):** Identify the foundations of press law, including copyright law, fair use exemption, and intellectual property ownership
- **§110.62(1)(C):** Identify the foundations of journalistic ethics
- **§110.62(1)(D):** Distinguish between responsible and irresponsible media action
- **§110.62(1)(E):** Understand the consequences of plagiarism

Module 2: News Reporting and Writing

- The structure of a news story: The inverted pyramid
- Identifying newsworthy topics and angles
- Conducting interviews and gathering information
- Writing headlines, leads, and body paragraphs for news articles

TEKS:

- **§110.62(2)(B):** Distinguish the similarities and differences of news, feature, and opinion writing
- **§110.62(3)(A):** Demonstrate an understanding of the elements of news
- **§110.62(3)(B):** Select the most appropriate journalistic format to present content

- **§110.62(3)(C):** Locate information sources, gather background information, and research to prepare for an interview or investigate a topic
- **§110.62(3)(D):** Plan and write relevant questions for an interview or in-depth research
- **§110.62(3)(E):** Gather information through interviews (in person or telephone)
- **§110.62(3)(F):** Evaluate and confirm the validity of background information from a variety of sources

Module 3: Feature Writing

- Characteristics of feature stories: Human interest, profiles, etc.
- In-depth research and interviewing for features
- Writing engaging and compelling feature articles

TEKS:

- **§110.62(2)(B):** Distinguish the similarities and differences of news, feature, and opinion writing
- **§110.62(3)(C):** Locate information sources and gather background information for features
- **§110.62(3)(D):** Plan and write relevant questions for interviews
- **§110.62(3)(G):** Write copy synthesizing direct and indirect quotes and other research
- **§110.62(3)(H):** Use journalistic style to write copy
- **§110.62(3)(K):** Create different forms of journalistic writing such as features to inform, entertain, and/or persuade

Module 4: Opinion and Editorial Writing

- Understanding editorials and op-ed pieces
- Art of persuasive writing and argumentation
- Crafting informed and balanced opinions

TEKS:

- **§110.62(2)(B):** Distinguish the similarities and differences of news, feature, and opinion writing
- **§110.62(3)(K):** Create different forms of journalistic writing such as editorials to inform, entertain, and/or persuade
- **§110.62(3)(H):** Use journalistic style to write copy

Module 5: Journalism Photography and Graphics

- Principles of photojournalism and storytelling through images
- Capturing powerful photographs and using photo editing tools
- Creating infographics and visual elements for news stories

TEKS:

- **§110.62(4)(B):** Design elements into an acceptable presentation
- **§110.62(4)(C):** Use illustrations or photographs that have been cropped to communicate and emphasize a topic
- **§110.62(4)(D):** Use graphic devices such as lines, screens, and art to communicate and emphasize a topic
- **§110.62(4)(E):** Prepare a layout for publication

Module 6: Digital Journalism and Multimedia

- Transition to digital journalism
- Blogging and online reporting
- Introduction to audio and video journalism
- Leveraging social media for news distribution

TEKS:

- **§110.62(2)(A):** Distinguish the similarities and differences of print, broadcast, and online media
- **§110.62(4)(A):** Identify the appropriate form of journalistic publication to present content, including online media

Module 7: Investigative Journalism

- The art of investigative reporting
- Research techniques and sources for investigative stories
- Presenting findings responsibly and ethically

TEKS:

- **§110.62(3)(C):** Locate information sources, gather background information, and research to prepare for an interview or investigation
- **§110.62(3)(F):** Evaluate and confirm the validity of background information from a variety of sources
- **§110.62(3)(G):** Write copy synthesizing direct and indirect quotes and other research

Module 8: Editing and Revising

- The role of the editor in journalism
- Editing for clarity, accuracy, and style
- Fact-checking and verification processes

TEKS:

- **§110.62(3)(I):** Revise and edit copy using appropriate copy editing symbols
- **§110.62(3)(J):** Rewrite copy

Module 9: Ethics and Diversity in Journalism

- Balancing the public's right to know with ethical considerations
- Representing diverse voices and perspectives
- Reporting sensitively on sensitive and tragic topics

TEKS:

- **§110.62(1)(C):** Identify the foundations of journalistic ethics
- **§110.62(1)(D):** Distinguish between responsible and irresponsible media action

Module 10: Final Portfolio and Reflection

- Assembling your best work in a professional portfolio
- Course reflection and self-assessment

TEKS:

- **§110.62(3)(B):** Select the most appropriate journalistic format to present content
- **§110.62(3)(K):** Create different forms of journalistic writing to inform, entertain, and/or persuade
- **§110.62(3)(L):** Write captions
- **§110.62(3)(M):** Demonstrate an understanding of the function of headlines through the writing of headlines

Assessment Methods:

- In-class writing exercises and workshops
- Quizzes and assessments on journalism principles and techniques
- Interviewing and reporting assignments
- Multimedia journalism projects (photography, audio, video)
- Peer editing and feedback sessions