



MS Journalism

Course Summary: Who? What? When? Where? Journalism provides us with the answers to these questions for the events that affect our lives. In this course, the student will learn how to gather information, organize ideas, format stories for different forms of news media, and edit stories for publication. The course will also examine the historical development of journalism and the role of journalism in society.

Course Outline

1. What is Journalism?

1. Read and Respond
 - Define journalism and describe its purpose
 - Define key terms such as reporter, editor, journalist and audience
 - Discuss the different types of journalism
 - Identify different types of news
 - Explain key roles in the world of journalism
2. Unit Extension Activity 1
3. Unit Extension Activity 2
4. Wrapping Up the Unit

2. Analyzing Media

1. Read and Respond
 - List elements of a good news story and describe what makes it newsworthy
 - Define and give examples of audience
 - Define and recognize bias and discuss why reporters include opinions
 - Explain the role tone plays in a news story
 - Explain how to analyze a news story
2. Unit Extension Activity
3. Unit Project
4. Wrapping Up the Unit

3. Gathering Information

1. Read and Respond
 - Identify the difference between primary and secondary sources
 - Discuss the importance of gathering credible information and identify sources that are not credible
 - Discuss ways to gather different types of information
 - Explain how journalists use the information they gather
 - Describe investigative journalism
2. Unit Extension Activity 1
3. Unit Extension Activity 2
4. Wrapping Up the Unit

4. Organizing Information

1. Read and Respond
 - Identify different purposes journalists have for writing
 - Describe how journalists determine what information is important

- Discuss the components and role of a lead
- Explain which organizational technique is best for a particular article
- Explain the pros and cons of each type of news story and each organizational technique

2. Unit Extension Activity
3. Unit Project
4. Wrapping Up the Unit

5. **Writing an Article**

1. Read and Respond
 - Describe methods for organizing an article
 - Explain how an article is written and revised and explain the purpose of deadlines
 - Use third person point of view and active voice to write an article
 - Discuss the difference between a story and an article and identify the main parts of an article
 - Identify quality headlines
2. Unit Extension Activity 1
3. Unit Extension Activity 2
4. Wrapping Up the Unit

6. **Preparing a Newscast**

1. Read and Respond
 - Explain the difference between writing for print and writing for on-air news
 - Recognize the different types of newscasts and their purpose
 - Identify the major components of a newscast and demonstrate how a newscast is organized
 - Explain the importance of graphics and video in a newscast
 - Demonstrate writing a story using the different story forms
2. Unit Extension Activity
3. Unit Project
4. Wrapping Up the Unit

7. **Editing an Article or Newscast**

1. Read and Respond
 - Explain the importance of editing and describe the different types of editors involved in the editing process
 - Understand the difference between macro editing and micro editing
 - Discuss issues with plagiarism and fabrication and ways to prevent them
 - Describe the editing process for a newspaper article and for a newscast
 - Edit an article to correct major issues
2. Unit Extension Activity 1
3. Unit Extension Activity 2
4. Unit Extension Activity 3
5. Wrapping Up the Unit

8. **Media, the Law and Ethics**

1. Read and Respond
 - Explain the difference between the law and ethics and explain how the law and ethics play a role in determining the stories a journalist covers
 - Describe the First Amendment rights for journalists as well as the lack of freedom journalists have in other countries
 - Discover specific examples of when journalists did not follow the law or acted unethically
 - Learn the consequences of breaking the law or not acting ethically in journalism

- Determine when a journalist should not ethically publish a story

2. Unit Extension Activity
3. Unit Project
4. Wrapping Up the Unit

9. Media and Society

1. Read and Respond
 - Describe the role media plays in society and cite specific examples of how the media has affected society
 - Describe how media can enhance or manipulate information and provide examples of alternate viewpoints in the media
 - Explain how the media reaches different audiences
 - Discuss the way the Internet has changed journalism and the different ways the Internet is used to spread news
 - Describe how the media reflects diverse voices of people from various backgrounds
2. Unit Extension Activity 1
3. Unit Extension Activity 2
4. Wrapping Up the Unit

10.A History of Journalism

1. Read and Respond
 - Explain how the news was spread before newspapers, television and radio
 - Discuss the history of the creation of the newspaper and the history of broadcast journalism
 - Describe how journalism has played a role in American history and how the Internet has changed the news
 - Explain the history of African-Americans and women in journalism
 - Analyze the effects journalism and society have had on each other
2. Unit Project
3. Wrapping Up the Unit