



VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CHARTING THE COURSE

Department of Teaching & Learning
Parent/Student Course Information

Journalism I Grades 10-12
(LA1200)

Counselors are available to assist parents and students with course selections and career planning. Parents may arrange to meet with the counselor by calling the school's guidance department.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Journalism I course offers the terminology necessary for an understanding of the communication process and the opportunity to explore and compare the different forms of mass communication: print and electronic. The curriculum includes the study of the American newspaper past and present and the rights and responsibilities of the journalist.

The heart of the course involves learning about gathering and writing news. Class lesson assignments focus on writing in-depth news articles, feature stories, editorials, columns, reviews, and sports. Matters of style involve the students in proofreading. Copyreading practice improves the reporter's writing and develops the ability to edit, e.g., re-organize, reduce, re-focus in order to achieve clarity, conciseness, and completeness, or simply to make a story fit the space allocated in a layout.

Headlining, page makeup and design, photography, and the principles of advertising are other essentials of this course.

PREREQUISITE

None

REQUIRED STUDENT TEXTBOOK

News Reporting and Writing, Tenth Edition, Melvin Mencher

READING SELECTIONS

The reading selection includes variety of resources related to professional publications, broadcasters, and famous journalists.

ACTIVITIES

Individual writing	Taking photographs
Discussing current events	Working in the darkroom
Oral critiquing of newspapers and/or stories	Typing stories
Critiquing the work of fellow classmates	Rewriting stories
Small group interviewing	Creating advertisements
Large group interviewing	Layout activities
Researching in library and/or classroom	Headlining activities

MAJOR LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- 1.1 Indicate familiarity with the history and the legal and ethical aspects of journalism.**
 - E 1.1.1 Understand the concepts applicable to laws and ethics governing the press.
- 1.2 Learn the role of mass communication within our society and the world.**
 - E 1.2.1 Understand why mass communication is important to modern living.
- 1.3 Demonstrate proficiency in a variety of journalistic writing styles.**
 - E 1.3.1 Develop skills in news gathering.
 - E 1.3.2 Cultivate awareness of audience and purpose.
 - E 1.3.3 Write straight news articles, features, editorials, and commentaries consistent with journalistic standards.
 - E 1.3.4 Provide focus with appropriate captions and headlines.
- 1.4 Familiarize themselves with available resources pertaining to computer software, photography, and other technology which enhance production and increase the impact of the publication.**
 - E 1.4.1 Use available computer software and other technology in production of the publication.

Dr. Aaron C. Spence, Superintendent
Virginia Beach City Public Schools
2512 George Mason Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23456-0038

Produced by the Department of Media and Communications for the Department of Teaching and Learning.
For further information please call (757) 263-1070.

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