

MONTE VISTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
ENGL 2210 Journalism and Creative Writing
Course Syllabus

Course Description

Journalism is a hands-on, intense introduction to the study of media and production of journalistic work in written and multimedia formats, including video and photo. In addition to being introduced to journalistic practices and principles, students will be responsible for managing and creating content for the school online newspaper, *The Vista*. Types of written news stories focused on will include: hard news, features, human interest, profiles, sports, opinion, art and food reviews and more. Multimedia and video will include: mini documentaries, audio slideshows and biweekly to quarterly newscasts. The course will also discuss and investigate the history of American journalism, from the Federalist papers to today's television, film and even social media citizen journalism. Students will discuss how journalism and the media affect a democratic society.

As this course also focuses on newspaper production, formatting, researching, and writing, students will learn Associated Press writing style and peer editing techniques. They will also learn basic skills in photojournalism and media editing and production software such as Adobe's InDesign and PhotoShop. Students will demonstrate their ability to write well under the pressure of a deadline, gather information independently and organize it effectively, and work cooperatively with their peers to produce a product in a professional, real-world working environment. Their online work could be seen by a potentially limitless audience. Students will develop a sense of journalistic responsibility and strive for excellence. Their grade is dependent upon their individual written and multimedia work, on their contributions to the team, and on their ability to meet deadline.

Curricular Mapping:

This course will continue to develop student skills specifically in the area of research, rhetoric and writing. The content of the class will prepare students for the college classroom.

Course Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Develop their research abilities and a nose for newsworthy events.
- Practice interviewing skills, including devising the open-ended question and building rapport.
- Identify and practice writing in the different story types.
- Develop a proficiency in writing the news lead.

- Use an objective, reporting voice as well as basic news writing style and punctuation.
- Continue their practice in rewriting and editing.
- Acquire skills in headline and caption writing.
- Acquire and develop skills in Adobe PageMaker and Adobe Photoshop for page makeup and newspaper layout.
- Use computers with advanced word processing, spell check and grammar check software.
- Develop a proficiency in the terminology of the trade.
- Explore photojournalism or the news in pictures.
- Discuss ethical issues in journalism, including objectivity, accuracy, libel, censorship and copyright concerns.
- Develop positive interpersonal skills in a small group setting.
- Develop multi tasking and deadline management skills.
- Develop leadership skills.

Textbooks:

Your necessary digital texts for this class will be part of a “Required Course Materials Fee” thru the EdTech bookstore. This is a bundle purchase of digital texts for your full schedule of classes and will be available for purchase after 7/18/16. For further instructions please visit the [16-17 School Year](#) icon on the MVCS homepage. Please note: some courses may require additional purchases outside of the course materials fee.

iPads: These are devices to use in our academic pursuits and subject to policies in the Student Handbook and given by your teacher. Activities outside accepted uses will result in warnings, referrals, environmental (seating, usage) and academic (grade score) consequences.

Course Outline:

- Students will write a minimum of three articles for *The Vista* per quarter.
- Students will take part in staff “fishbowl” meetings on a biweekly basis.
- Students will edit each other’s work.
- Students will be assigned as editors and beat writers, and will have other miscellaneous duties to help produce *The Vista*.
- Students will publish *The Vista* biweekly and will also write and publish breaking news stories as needed.
- Students will read newspapers, magazines and other online news sources to keep up to date with current events. They will also present periodically on those various events.
- Final project: Self-reflective, third-person story in a two-page magazine layout including headlines, photos and captions.

- Students will do a study on one American journalist and present how the journalist chosen changed the world around them.
- Students will view, discuss and study various documentaries by American journalists including, but not limited to: *Food Inc.*, *Enron The Smartest Guys in the Room*, *An Inconvenient Truth*, *30-for30: Fantastic Lies*, as well as historical dramas *Good Night*, and *Good Luck and Spotlight*.

Grading:

<u>Grade Book Categories</u>		<u>Semester Weighted Grading Configuration</u>	
Articles and Editing	50%	Quarter	45 %
Projects and classwork	20%	Quarter	45 %
Deadlines, Participation & Time management	15 %	Final	10 %
Field Work/Research	15 %		

High School Standard Grading Policy:

Please refer to the policy and procedures posted online in our Parent-Student Handbook.

Class Policies:

The following policies are non-negotiable. Please see the teacher if you have any concerns with your ability to follow these policies:

1. Love God. Love your neighbor as yourself. These establish the foundation for all our interpersonal interactions.
2. Attendance: Students are expected to be in class daily. If you are unable to attend, it is your responsibility to get the classwork and homework missed. If you have questions, seek out answers.
3. Tardiness: When the bell rings, be in your seat and ready for work.
4. Enjoy water (in a bottle) in class but no food or other drinks.
5. Bathroom: Students should plan on using the bathroom before or after class.

School Policies and Expected Student Learning Results (ESLRs):

Students are subject to all academic policies of the school as found in the Parent-Student Handbook. Furthermore, it is each student's responsibility to read and follow all academic policies of Monte Vista Christian School. In addition to addressing each ESLR every year, we target a specific ESLR each academic year for particular focus.

Tips for the students:

1. You should always be researching that next lead, and developing it into a news story. Develop a nose for good ideas.
2. You should always be present at the regularly scheduled staff meetings. Interviews and other crucial activities must be scheduled around the staff meeting, which is the backbone of the paper.
3. Deadlines are crucial and how students honor them will directly impact their grade.