



# Southern Lehigh School District

High School Syllabus

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## News Journalism

2013-14

### Course Description:

Students who enjoy writing will benefit greatly from this hands-on learning class. Here they will put their talent to use while learning the steps of interviewing and writing for news, feature, editorials and sports. They will also get a crash course on journalism ethics and the law, as well as working with a team of fellow reporters. In this workshop-style course, weekly assignments are submitted for publication in the school newspaper throughout the year. Students will learn how to use technology including SpartanDocs, Photoshop, and InDesign throughout the writing, editing, and publishing process. The publication of their work will be the ultimate measure of the journalistic skills they have developed throughout the year.

### Course Content:

First Amendment

Copyright and Ethics

Interviewing

Lead Writing

Reporting

News Writing

Commentary Writing

Sports Writing

Entertainment Writing

Editing and AP Style

Design / Layout

Photography and Multimedia

Brief History of Journalism

### Required Textbooks and/or Other Reading/Research Materials

There is no singular required textbook for the journalism course. Students will be reading a variety of professional and student newspapers and articles, assigned websites, and supplementary materials as provided by the teacher. Students will also be required to use software including Adobe InDesign and Adobe Photoshop, both installed on assigned student laptops and in the publication lab, as well as online programs including Blackboard, Spartandocs (GoogleDocs), Edmodo, and our online newspaper site.

### Course Requirements:

Students are expected to meet all deadlines and complete assignments, interviews, articles, and evaluations in a professional and timely manner. Students will serve as reporters and editors for The Spotlight, and as such, are expected to act professionally when representing our student

publication beyond the classroom. During class, students should be prepared with all materials, a positive work ethic, and the willingness to communicate and collaborate with others.

Grade Components/Assessments:

Grades will be based on a point system that will be converted into overall percentages (student's total earned points divided by the total possible points). Graded items may include assignments, projects, tests/quizzes, preparation, and participation.

Each marking period is worth 20% of a student's overall grade. The midterm and final exam are each worth 10% of a student's overall average:

Quarter 1	20%
Quarter 2	20%
<b>Midterm</b>	<b>10%</b>
Quarter 3	20%
Quarter 4	20%
<b>Final</b>	<b>10%</b>

Required Summer Reading/Assignments:

There is no summer reading for this course.