

**GREAT NECK SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL
COURSE EXPECTATION SHEET**

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

COURSE: Journalism
(Revised 6/07)

I. Course goals and objectives.

The overall aims of the Journalism program are the following:

- A. To give journalism students a comprehensive picture of school newspapers, and of the professional media (newspapers, magazines, and electronic media, acquainting them with the roles of the mass media in a democratic society and creating a sound basis for the discriminating reading, listening, viewing and intelligent use of the mass media.

As “scientists” studying communications media, students are encouraged to find the “specimens” for study in their local area: local newspapers, radio, television, and The Internet.

- B. Provide supplement to the language arts program by presenting journalistic writing as a form of composition, enabling students to develop their own skills.
1. In learning about newswriting, students become acquainted with the purpose and structure of the various types of news stories, and through newswriting assignments learn the skills necessary for journalistic writing.
 2. By writing as a working journalist for The Southerner, our school newspaper, students learn how to write for an audience and how to write well. The rules of mechanics and usage they have become familiar with in the English classroom are used in practical application.
- C. Develop in staff members of The Southerner and other school publications a sense of responsibility for the printed word, thereby encouraging the improvement of student publications and the use of these publications as a laboratory for student writing.
- D. In addition to the text Scholastic Journalism, 10th edition, by Rolnicki, Tate & Taylor, the student will read a variety of newspapers and periodicals.
- E. To further enhance the appreciation for journalism, the student may hear guest speakers in the field, and go on field trips.

II. Student/Teacher Conferences

- A. Each student is expected to have writing conferences with his/her teacher about his/her written work.
- B. If the student and teacher do not share a mutually convenient period, it is the student’s responsibility to find a convenient time (i.e. before or after school).

III. Special Help

Students are encouraged to attend help. Special help may be secured on other days by appointment.

IV. Tests

Tests will be given in both essay form as well as objective form. Major tests will be given on English testing day. Surprise quizzes will be given at any time.

V. Grades

Grades will be based on papers, tests, quizzes, homework, class participation, laboratory work with The Southerner staff, and a final exam.

VI. Attendance Philosophy

Regular attendance and punctuality are expected. Cutting is not permitted. If you intentionally absent yourself from a class without a legitimate reason you will not be entitled to make up any assignments or exams missed during that period. Intentional absences are a clear message that you are not interested in doing your best. Excessive illegal absence or any cutting will result in parental notification and will have a negative impact on how your class participation will be factored into your quarter and final grades. Attendance/participatiion will count as much as 20% of a student's grade.

VII. Plagiarism Statement

Plagiarism is defined as presenting the thoughts, writings, and ideas of other people as y our own.

Integrity of the academic process requires that credit be given where credit is due. Accordingly, it is unethical to present as one's own work, the ideas, representations, or words of another or to permit another to present one's own work without customary and proper acknowledgment of sources.