

William A. Shine—Great Neck South High School
Course Expectation Sheet

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

COURSE: Journalism
(Revised 7/15)

The Journalism course is designed for students who have an interest in news writing and mass media. A major emphasis of the course is on training students to become members of the school newspaper, *The Southerner*. This course is required for all editorial positions on *The Southerner*.

Because students in this course will read and write a variety of nonfiction texts, they are further developing the skills required by the Common Core State Standards.

The overall aims of the Journalism program are the following:

1. To give 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 intelligent consumption of mass media.
2. Provide supplement to the language arts program by presenting journalistic writing as a form of composition, enabling students to develop their own skills.
 - 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.
 - By writing as a journalist for *The Southerner*, students learn how to write for an audience. The rules of mechanics and usage they have become familiar with in the English classroom are used in practical application.
3. Develop in staff members of *The Southerner* 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.
4. Learn the elements of effective newspaper design and how to create a print newspaper using Adobe InDesign.

In addition to the text *Scholastic Journalism*, 10th Ed., by Rolnicki, Tate & Taylor, students will read a variety of newspapers and periodicals.

WRITING CONFERENCES

Writing conferences provide students with the opportunity to discuss and improve their writing. Each student is expected to schedule appointments at a time that is mutually convenient for both student and teacher.

ASSESSMENT

- Major tests will be given on English testing day.
- In-class essays that require minimal preparation may be given on any day.
- Unannounced quizzes may be given on any day.
- Class participation may count as much as 20% of the quarter grade.
- It is the responsibility of absent students to arrange a time to make up missed work and tests.
- Students will be responsible for all assignments on the date they are due unless prior arrangements have been approved by the teacher.

- All unapproved late submission of work will be penalized by reduction in grade.

EXTRA HELP

Students are encouraged to attend extra help sessions on the day before English testing day.

ATTENDANCE PHILOSOPHY

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

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Integrity of the academic process requires that credit be given where credit is due. Accordingly, it is unethical to present the ideas, representations, or words of another as one's own or to permit one's own work to be used by someone else without customary and proper acknowledgement of sources. In addition to such plagiarism, the following acts violate the academic integrity policy:

- copying or paraphrasing information from the Internet or out of a book without proper citation or when an assignment does not require it
- copying information from a friend, classmate or sibling
- "collaborating" with classmates on assignments for which no collaboration is assigned
- sharing information about test or quiz questions and answers with classmates who will have a similar assessment later

When students submit work that is not their own, they will receive no credit for that work and will have no opportunity to make up that work. Students who willingly share their work with others are also subject to penalty.