



The Bat Cave Tribune: *Back to School Issue*



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Course Proficiencies: The Student Will:

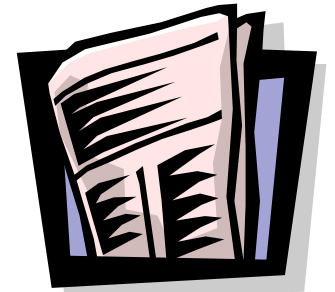
- learn the history of journalism and its importance in today's society.
- effectively cover an event in a straight news-style article.
- become familiar with AP Style.
- communicate opinions and comments in an editorial-style article.
- identify editorials and opinions in a newspaper.
- write a feature style article and be able to convert straight news into news features and sidebar-style articles.
- learn interviewing techniques, conduct interviews, and write interview-style articles.
- write sports-style articles, features and interviews.
- learn how to edit articles and correct style mistakes.
- learn how to correctly write photo captions.
- proofread articles to correct mechanical mistakes.
- learn how to re-write copy from unacceptable originals.
- learn the worth of a news source and investigative reporting.
- learn the aspects of visual journalism.
- become familiar with careers in journalism and the communications field.
- learn all aspects of publishing a newspaper.
- contribute to issues of the school newspaper and assist with the school yearbook
- learn computer layout using Adobe InDesign

Course Description

Journalism is a one-year English elective open to all 10th, 11th and 12th grade students. It is a study of the tangible product created by journalists. It will give the students maximum exposure to the various ways that the working journalist effectively communicates with the

audience. The course will explore how news is produced and delivered, as well as the traditions and conventions that govern the culture of journalism. In addition, the course will cover the technical aspects of journalism: writing, printing, computer layouts, typesetting, editing,

photography, etc. This technical knowledge will assist the students in contributing to the



Expectations

* As you enter the room, you are fully prepared with all materials, sit in your assigned seat, copy down the agenda and begin working on the "Do Now" assignment before the bell rings.

* You will be on time and will remain seated until dismissed by the teacher. The teachers dismiss classes, NOT the bell! Do not "pack up" early.

* You will show respect and courtesy to the teacher and fellow students, as well as to the equipment and furnishings in the classroom, at all times. A lack of respect will NOT be tolerated!

* You will follow all directions the first time

they are given, and use common sense when in the classroom. For instance, you will not get up and sharpen your pencil or throw away trash in the middle of a lesson, talk out of turn, groom yourself, curse, sleep, call out answers, eat or drink.

* You will take all of your belongings with you as you leave the classroom, including textbooks, binders, bags and clothing.

* In addition, students are expected to follow all MTHS rules and guidelines contained in your Student Planner.



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Grading System

Determination of your grade will be based upon a total point system and will consist of classwork, homework, tests, quizzes, articles, exams, and class participation. The breakdown is as follows:

Classwork: This includes any assignments done during class time. Each class assignment is typically worth 10 to 50 points.

Homework: This includes any projects or assignments completed outside of the

classroom. Homework assignments are worth between 10 to 50 points.

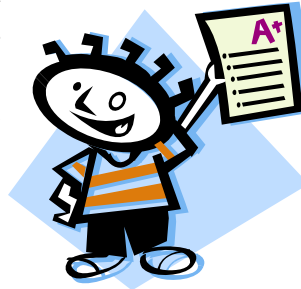
Journalism Journals: See Page 3 for specifics.

Tests, Quizzes and Articles: Each test will be typically worth at least 100 points. Quizzes are typically worth 3 to 5 points for each question on the quiz. Articles will typically be worth 100 points per draft.

Class Participation: You can earn up to 100

points each marking period for class participation. Points will be deducted for tardiness, forgetting your binder or writing utensil, poor attitude, disciplinary problems, inattentiveness, inappropriate language, failure to follow procedures & expectations, etc.

Exams: Your midterm and final exams each count 1/10th towards your final class grade.



Absences and Make-Up Work

To be successful in this class, you must attend. If you miss class for any reason, it is YOUR responsibility to obtain and make up any work you missed. You have the opportunity to make up work due to an absence. If you are absent on the day that an assignment is due, the assignment is expected to be turned in on the date of your return, including making up tests or quizzes. If you are

absent on the day an assignment is given, the assignment is to be turned in within 1 school day after the absence, otherwise a score of ZERO will stand. Remember it is the student's responsibility to obtain and complete make-up work. If a student is absent, he/she will go to the class notebook upon returning to school, copy down the agendas and notes from the

class notebook, and retrieve any handouts. Check www.mrsocone.com for agendas when absent! If a student is absent from class but considered present in school (trip, meeting, etc), he/she is still responsible for handing in any assignments due that day; such assignments are due at the time of the class period and may be handed in by a fellow student or to Mrs. Ocone before school.

Late Work Policy/Late to Class

Late Work Policy: Each assignment is to be completed by the beginning of class on the day that it is due. Assignments handed in one day late will be penalized at 70% of point value; assignments handed in more

than one day late will NOT be accepted for credit.

Late to Class: Students are expected to be on time and in their seats copying the agenda and working on the "Do Now" assignment listed on the board

when the bell rings. Failure to do so will result in being marked late. Each late will result in a 10 point deduction from your marking period class participation grade. Chronic tardiness will result in disciplinary referrals.

Materials Needed

Students are required to have their Journalism Binder and a writing utensil with them every day. No locker passes will be issued to retrieve your materials. Failure to be prepared will be reflected in your class participation grade.

Binder: This class requires a

3-ring binder filled with lined paper and enough room to store handouts, which there will be a lot of. You may be permitted to keep the binder in the appropriate class crate.

Text: Journalism textbooks will remain in the classroom at all times, since we only have a

class set. Any copies made from the text will be 3-hole punched and should be immediately placed in your binder.

Portfolio: Each student will receive a folder in order to store assignments and articles.

Journalism Journals

Each marking period, students will be required to complete 10 online journals for 30 points each (300 points total per marking period). Journals may be assigned in the classroom as a Do-Now, or as homework. As “journalism students,” you should get used to

keeping a little notepad on you to record the 5 W’s and H of what happens to you or what you witness each day. The Journals are NOT intended to be “busy work” or fiction. Rather, they are to make you more aware citizens who record daily events...in other

words, they will strengthen your reporting skills. The online form can be found at www.mrsocone.com. Click on JOURNALISM JOURNALS in the left-hand bar. More specific information will be distributed.

Extra Help/Deadlines

Typically, my extra-help day will be Tuesdays from 2 to 3 pm in Room 218. Students may also obtain extra help any day before school. Each week, my extra help day will be posted in the classroom and on my website (www.mrsocone.com). Because Journalism is a preparatory course for Advanced Journalism, there will be days when extra

student assistance will be needed to meet newspaper and yearbook deadlines. Students will be awarded extra-credit for staying after on such days. Additionally, students are highly encouraged to participate as active staff members of *The Talon* and *déjà vu*. After-school meetings, while not mandatory for class, will only add to the

student’s journalistic experience...please stay after school for meetings whenever possible! It’s fun!

Be an active staff member of
both *The Talon* and *déjà vu*!
Enrich your journalism
experience!

Leaving Class

Students are only permitted to leave the classroom for journalism-related matters. Students must sign out when leaving class, as well as fill out their planner. In the event a student



is NOT where they said they were going or are found at ANYTIME in the cafeteria on non-journalism related visits, he/she will be immediately written up and referred to the

appropriate vice principal for disciplinary action. In addition, the student’s grade for the day and class participation will be negatively affected.

MTHS 2010-2011 JOURNALISM

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We're on the web!

www.mrsocone.com

A NOTE FROM YOUR TEACHER... I am excited to be your teacher, and pledge that I will do my best for you to have a positive learning experience in my class here at MTHS. I look forward to using my background and skills as a published author, journalist and photographer to help you, the student, have a wonderful year in Journalism class. As responsible and respectful young adults, I am confident that I will not have to worry about disciplinary problems in this class. Positive behavior will be rewarded! Please come to me any time you have questions or require any additional assistance. I am here for you!

You can email me anytime with class questions or concerns. Please keep all emails class/school related (mrsocone@mrsocone.com). However, keep in mind that if you email me assignments, a hard-copy must be handed in the next time you are in class in order to receive credit for the assignment. "But I emailed it to you" is not a valid excuse for turning in an assignment. You can also visit my webpage for important links, class handouts, agendas, and more (www.mrsocone.com)! Keep *Procedures and Expectations* in your binder. Here's to a great year!

~~~~ Mrs. Ocone

## Cell Phones/Communication Devices/Ipods & MP3 Players/ Music/Food and Drink/Web Rules

The Journalism Classroom is a place to LEARN. Therefore, the following devices and items are NOT permitted in the classroom:

- Cell phones
- Communication devices
- Ipods/MP3 players
- Personal Music (CDs, etc)
- Food of any kind
- Drinks of any kinds

According to school policy, all cell phones, music players, and communication devices must be turned OFF and be OUT OF



SIGHT at all times. School policy also prohibits food and drinks from being in the classroom. This is especially important in a room full of relatively new computers. Failure to follow these rules will result in immediate disciplinary referrals and loss of 35 class participation points per infraction.

Additionally, students may not bring in any sort of music to be played on their classroom computers, or use any websites to play music. Web use is limited to visiting valid websites for assignment purposes only. Any student found violating the Manchester



Township School District's Acceptable-Use Policy (found in the student planner) will be referred immediately to administration, and can have his or her web privileges in the classroom suspended for the year, thus impacting the student's grade for assignments. ***This IS your only warning!***

