



Montgomery Blair High School

2026-2027 Course Syllabus



Course	CAP 10 Writing News/Video Production
Teacher Contact	D. Zack Wilson douglas.z.wilson@mcpsmd.net Room 105 Academic Support: 105 during lunch
Course Description and Outcomes	<u>1.1 Forming Perspectives</u> -We will learn the basics of Media Literacy and how to apply these concepts into our own media creations. How do we best manipulate our media in order to manipulate our audience? We will create our own Advertisements and PSA's to practice these skills. <u>1.2 Perspectives in Action</u> - We will cover News and Documentary Video/Film. Gathering interviews and B-Roll, and editing them into polished productions, we will learn how to shape a narrative in order to share our perspectives. The two larger video productions will be an MBHS news package and a mini documentary on a local small business. <u>1.3 Arguing Perspectives</u> - Taking everything we have learned so far, we will create a Documentary arguing our perspective on a critical issue that faces our nation for the annual C-Span Student Cam Documentary contest. This will require a major amount of research, writing, reaching out for and recording interviews, and extensive editing. <u>2.1 and 2.2 Storytelling and Perspectives</u> - We will learn more about scripted narrative films and the tools used to tell a story visually. Concepts that we will cover and apply to our own productions will include montage, creative transitions, using camera shots, angles, and framing to help tell our story, sound design, and more. We will create an additional two PSA's using these techniques to get us ready for our final large project. <u>2.3 In Sum</u> - Using all the tools we have gathered all year, we will script, shoot, and edit a short film for our annual CAP Hollywood event. Every concepts we have touched upon will be incorporated into these films and they will be showcased at a Gala event in the evening in the MBHS auditorium.
Academic Support and Student Resources	• Mr. Wilson's Academic Support is in 105 during lunch. • All slideshows, assignments, and materials can be found on Canvas.

Grading

At Montgomery Blair High School, we believe that the MCPS Grading and Reporting Policy emphasizes teaching toward every student's mastery of learning goals, reteaching and reassessing when students do not demonstrate mastery of these goals, informing instructional decisions, and gathering data from assessments for teacher, team, PLC, and school reflection. For this reason, it is important that students complete all assigned work in a timely manner to help facilitate the instructional process.

Grading categories

- 1) All Tasks/Assessments (90%)
- 2) Practice/Preparation (10%)

Student grades will be based on their level of attainment of course expectations. Homework assigned for completion (not graded for accuracy) will account for 10% of each marking period grade. Work graded for accuracy will account for 90% of each marking period grade. Per MCPS regulations, letter grades for assignments and course will be assigned based on the following percentage values:

Letter Grade	Percent Range	Description
A	90 - 100	Outstanding level of performance
B	80 - 89	High level of performance
C	70 - 79	Acceptable level of performance
D	60 - 69	Minimal level of performance
E	0 - 59	Unacceptable level of performance

Semester grades will be based on the average of the two marking period grades. For example, if a student earned 92 percent the first marking period for an A and 86 percent the second marking period for a B, the semester grade will be 89 percent for a B.

	50% Rule and Zeros Teachers shall not assign lower than 50% if the student's work shows evidence of making progress on the relevant standards that are being assessed regardless of product or accuracy. Teachers shall continue to offer support and intervention. The 50% rule applies to all categories (All Tasks and Practice/Preparation). In the Practice/Preparation category, teachers must grade for completion rather than accuracy. The teacher will assign a zero if: • the student does not seek support or does no work on the task/assessment after the teacher offers support and/or intervention; or • the teacher determines the student did not attempt to meet the basic requirements of the task/assessment. The teacher may assign a zero if the student engaged in academic dishonesty. Review of Assignment Grades Students have seven calendar days after the return of an assignment to discuss with the teacher the grade earned. Completing Assignments • This class aims to build your ability to synthesize complex information and develop original ideas. Therefore, you cannot use AI tools (ChatGPT, Google Gemini, Copilot, DALL-E, etc.) for researching or generating writing. You must do all of your own writing. • Please complete work on your assigned Google school account. Please submit work as shared Google documents with teacher edit access, not MS Word or pdfs, so I can see the complete edit history of the work. Digital assessments without access to revision history will be given a 50%. • Students are expected to work on in-class assignments during class time; extensions may be denied if time given is not used appropriately. • Google LTI assignments that are unsubmitted may be ungraded OR deducted points. Please make sure to hit "Submit" on all assignments before the due date.
Assignment Due Dates and Deadlines	Due Dates & Deadlines It is important to complete work on-time in order to be ready for classroom activities and future learning. Each assignment will have a distinct due date and deadline. The due date will be indicated with the assignment and the deadline will be seven calendar days after, as outlined in the assignment description on Canvas. Work turned in after the due date but before the deadline will have a maximum of 10% deduction of the earned score. Work submitted after the deadline can earn up to a 50% until interims or the quarter's deadline, depending on when the assignment was due. Students who attempt to meet the basic requirements of the task/assessment

	will earn a minimum score of 50% on assignments if turned in by the deadline. Students who miss the due date or who earn a 50% on an assignment are encouraged to visit the teacher during office hours at lunch. Students who can not attend office hours should reach out to the teacher to set up an alternate time to meet. Work not turned in, work not meeting the basic requirements of the task or work that was a result of academic dishonesty (claiming work as your own that was not, including work generated using artificial intelligence, sharing items from assessments or solutions to problems, etc.) will earn a 0 on the assignment. Students should refer to the Code of Conduct and CAP's Academic Code of Integrity to review additional consequences that may occur for violating systemwide rules regarding academic dishonesty.
Reassessment	Students will have opportunities to reassess certain tasks that were turned in by the deadline to both demonstrate mastery of course standards and improve their grade. Reassessable tasks will be noted with an "R-" at the beginning of the assignment name in Synergy. The reassessment may be an alternate task that addresses the same course standards. The teacher will designate a timeline to complete the reassessment and communicate with students based on the type of assignment. The higher grade between the initial and new task will be counted toward a student's grade. Students must ask to reassess (in case reteaching is needed) and submit a reassessment within seven calendar days of the assignment's return.
Absences	From the day a student returns from a lawful absence, they have at a minimum time to make up an assignment equal to the number of excused class sessions as they missed. In other words, if a student is absent Monday when the assignment is due, and also misses Wednesday, they now have two more sessions to complete the assignment; the day they return, Friday, and the day now due, Tuesday, on a typical block schedule (unless given additional time). This applies to work that was assigned and collected during a student's absence. It is the student's responsibility to find out what work they missed and to make arrangements for completion within the time period following their return to school.
Academic Integrity	Why there's a new policy on academic dishonesty: • MBHS Staff value academic integrity, honesty, independence of thought and work, and the value of teaching students to be positive contributors to the learning community. • Academic dishonesty can lead to a loss of credibility, trust in relationships, and, overall, a decline in effortful learning. • Instead of being reactive, MBHS is transitioning to a uniform system of establishing academic standards that minimize academic dishonesty in an equitable way. • Should you participate in academic dishonesty, there will be clear consequences.

	Examples of Academic Dishonesty: • The use of any unauthorized technology during a secure test, quiz, or other formal assessment. • Submitting work for any assessment that is in part or whole not one's own (whether it be from another student current or past or that has been produced with AI). • Submitting the same assignment for more than one course or assignment. • Providing material, information, or assistance to another person with the knowledge that doing so is in violation of the code. • Providing false information in connection with an incident regarding academic integrity. • Forgery, such as faking the signature of a teacher or parent/guardian. Protocols for Secure Assessment Zones: • Assessment zones will be free from personal technology devices. • Teachers will follow a script with final warnings to power down/put away devices. • Any device found after the script will be pouched. • Teachers will create a referral in Synergy with administrative follow up. Consequences: 1st Offence Zero grade + mandatory restorative reflection OR other action (e.g. reassessment) + Honor Society participation may be in jeopardy 2nd Offence Zero grade + mandatory restorative reflection + removal from Honor Societies 3rd Offence Zero grade + progressive discipline All Instances: <i>Incident logged and parents/caregivers notified immediately.</i>
Cell Phone Policy	Montgomery County Public Schools restricts the use of cell phones during school hours in alignment with the Maryland Phone-Free School Act (HB 525). All students are not permitted to utilize personal mobile devices (cell phones, tablets, e-readers, personal laptops, smart watches, smart glasses, and anything with a microphone, camera, speaker, or headphones/earbuds including AirPods) during the instructional day. Such devices will not be necessary for any part of completing this course. We believe that by restricting personal mobile devices it will reduce distractions to learning, support social development through increased engagement in discussions with their peers and teachers, and promote a safer school environment.

	Accommodations may be made to this guidance in appropriate student 504 and Individual Education Plans (IEPs).
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