



Media Literacy

Grade Level: 12

Semester Elective: ½ Credit

In this one-semester senior elective, students will study the history of media as well as some controversial issues associated with the Constitutional guarantee to free press that have arisen over time. Students will develop the ability to think critically about what they see, hear, and read in the media. They will learn the distinctions between an opinion and an informed opinion that results from objective discernment. Students will explore critical issues and current events that are reported in the media, and they will learn to determine subjectivity, objectivity, credibility, bias, sensationalism, stereotyping, and the various ways that our media uses words and images to shape public opinion. A final project is required.

How is the course structured?

Course Components

- Reading and Viewing Fiction and Non-Fiction Texts from the Media, Questioning Techniques for Productive Discussion, Annotating Texts for Central Idea, Analysis and Evaluation, Research, Language Interpretation and Analysis, Steps of the Writing Process, Writing Analysis, Narrative, and Argument Essays

Course Grade Based On:

- Participation in Discussion, Individual and Small Group Activities, Daily Writing and Note-Taking, Projects, Research, Essay Writing in a Variety of Modes

What can I expect?

Course Workload:

- Active participation in class is necessary for success. Homework is given throughout the unit, and can be partly done in class. All work is presented on weekly activity lists, in advance, and students are encouraged to manage their time productively in class and out.

Homework Frequency:

- 1-2 times per week

Type of Homework:

- Reading and Annotating, Analysis of Media, Media Log Responses for Close Reading, Outlining, Drafting, and Revision of Writing

Major Projects:

- Interactive Media Project - Social Media and Video Games, Analysis of News Articles, Advertising Project, Entertainment Media Essay, Debate on Media Violence, Final Project

Text Titles May Include:

- *Media Literacy*, by W. James Potter; various short articles, ads, films, and episodes of TV shows written by diverse authors and offering a range of perspectives on the media

Additional Information:

- This course is frequently updated to include a range of self-reflective activities that involve critical analysis of personal media habits and contemporary media issues.