

M6 Journalism within Communication Arts

Course Syllabus - 2025 Term 1

Teacher: Jack Adams

Department:
English

Subject Code: EN

Periods per week: 1

Credits:1

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of journalism as a core component of communication arts. Students will explore journalism's role in society and its connection to media, ethics, and storytelling. Through writing, interviewing, research, and visual storytelling, students will develop the practical skills necessary for producing news articles and editorial content. The course culminates in the creation of a professional-level journalistic project, preparing students for future studies in communication arts and media-related fields.

Course Content

1. Introduction to Journalism

- What is journalism?
- Journalism's role in society
- Types of journalism (print, digital, broadcast)

2. News Values and Structure

- Newsworthiness and audience relevance
- Inverted pyramid structure
- Lead writing and clarity in reporting

3. Research and Interviews

- Fact-checking and reliable sources
- Interview preparation and techniques

- Ethical reporting and source credibility

4. Writing Styles in Journalism

- News vs. opinion and editorial writing
- Persuasive writing and structured argument
- Captioning and writing with images

5. Photojournalism and Investigative Journalism

- Visual storytelling techniques
- Investigative reporting and sourcing
- Case studies of impactful journalism

6. Final Journalism Project

- Topic selection and angle
- Planning, research, writing, and revision
- Integration of interviews and visuals
- Final peer-reviewed submission

Learning Outcomes

- Define and explain the purpose of journalism in society.
- Evaluate and apply news values in journalistic writing.
- Structure stories using the inverted pyramid method.
- Conduct interviews and practice fact-checking techniques.
- Differentiate between objective news and opinion writing.
- Apply ethics in journalism-related dilemmas.
- Create photojournalistic narratives using visuals and captions.
- Complete a comprehensive reporting project using multiple skills.

Learning Resources

- Teacher-provided articles and case studies
- Online news platforms and editorial samples

- Peer interviews and source-based investigations
- Multimedia tools for visual storytelling
- Optional readings on journalism ethics and media influence

Assessment Methods

- Weekly classwork and formative tasks
- Written assignments and article submissions
- Peer feedback and editing workshops
- Individual and group contributions to the final project
- Final project: A fully developed and edited article with interviews and visuals

Homework Policy

Any late assignments will be given an immediate 20% penalty. Students will then lose a further 20% of the full available points for work handed in between one to two weeks late. 50% will be the highest they will achieve after this time.

If students are absent when assignments are given or on an assignment due date, it is the responsibility of the student to contact the teacher to make arrangements for submission.

Evaluation Breakdown

Student Work	70
	%

Assessments	30
	%