



## ENGLISH

**JOURNALISM I  
GRADES 10-12**

*Counselors are available to assist parents and students with course selections and career planning. Parents may arrange to meet with the counselor by calling the school's guidance department.*

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The Journalism I course offers the terminology necessary for an understanding of the communication process and the opportunity to explore and compare the different forms of mass communication: print and electronic. The curriculum includes the study of the American newspaper past and present and the rights and responsibilities of the journalist.

The heart of the course involves learning about gathering and writing news. Class lesson assignments focus on writing in-depth news articles, feature stories, editorials, columns, reviews, and sports. Matters of style involve the students in proofreading. Copyreading practice improves the reporter's writing and develops the ability to edit, e.g., re-organize, reduce, re-focus in order to achieve clarity, conciseness, and completeness, or simply to make a story fit the space allocated in a layout.

Headlining, page makeup and design, photography, and the principles of advertising are other essentials of this course.

**PREREQUISITE**

None

**OPTIONS FOR NEXT COURSE**

Journalism II

**REQUIRED STUDENT TEXTBOOK**

*News Reporting and Writing*, Tenth Edition, Melvin Mencher

**READING SELECTION**

The reading selection includes variety of resources related to professional publications, broadcasters, and famous journalists.

**ACTIVITIES**

Individual writing

Discussing current events

Oral critiquing of newspapers and/or stories

Critiquing the work of fellow classmates

Small group interviewing

Large group interviewing

Researching in library and/or classroom

Taking photographs

Working in the darkroom

Typing stories

Rewriting stories

Creating advertisements

Layout activities

Headlining activities

## THE OBJECTIVES FOR THE COURSE FOLLOW.

- 1.1 Indicate familiarity with the history and the legal and ethical aspects of journalism (SOL J.13)**
  - 1.1.1 Understand the concepts applicable to laws and ethics governing the press
  - 1.1.2 Trace the historical highlights of the modern newspaper and the restrictions applied to each stage of its evolution
- 1.2 Learn the role of mass communication within our society and the world (SOLs J.2, J.12)**
  - 1.2.1 Understand why mass communication is important to modern living
  - 1.2.2 Recognize how news is presented through the mass media, especially by means of newscasts, news magazines, newspapers, radio, and television
  - 1.2.3 Recognize the place of school newspapers within news media
  - 1.2.4 Distinguish biased from objective print and broadcast reportage
- 1.3 Demonstrate proficiency in a variety of journalistic writing styles (SOLs J.1, J.2, J.5)**
  - 1.3.1 Develop skills in news gathering
  - 1.3.2 Cultivate awareness of audience and purpose
  - 1.3.3 Write straight news articles, features, editorials, and commentaries consistent with journalistic standards
  - 1.3.4 Provide focus with appropriate captions and headlines
- 1.4 Write articles based on a number of research sources (SOLs, J.6, J.7)**
  - 1.4.1 Perform library research successfully
  - 1.4.2 Demonstrate proficiency in interviewing
  - 1.4.3 Conduct and analyze surveys and polls for conclusions of significance
  - 1.4.4 Summarize findings from published surveys and consumer reports
- 1.5 Demonstrate proficiency in editing (SOLs, J.8, J.9)**
  - 1.5.1 Edit for purpose, fairness, accuracy, balance, and space
  - 1.5.2 Edit for intended audience
  - 1.5.3 Read copy for errors in mechanics and syntax, using correctly copyreader's and proofreader's symbols
- 1.6 Achieve consistency of tone with good design and planning techniques (SOLs, J.3, J.4)**
  - 1.6.1 Analyze and evaluate designs of advertisements, magazines, and newspapers
  - 1.6.2 Create page and advertising designs
- 1.7 Explain or demonstrate business management procedures relevant to journalism (SOL J.11)**
  - 1.7.1 Analyze the relationship between journalism and advertising
  - 1.7.2 Organize and implement circulation and distribution
  - 1.7.3 Evaluate the product
- 1.8 Familiarize themselves with available resources pertaining to computer software, photography, and other technology which enhance production and increase the impact of the publication (SOLs J.10, J.16)**
  - 1.8.1 Use available computer software and other technology in production of the publication
  - 1.8.2 Use available photographic equipment in production of the publication
- 1.9 Apply journalistic skills to other content work and apply other content skills to journalism (SOL J.15)**
  - 1.9.1 Write letters-to-the-editor for social studies
  - 1.9.2 Use inverted pyramid style for English themes
  - 1.9.3 Use editing, critical revising, and close reading skills for/from English
  - 1.9.4 Use layout design and copy for other school publications (yearbook, literary magazine)
  - 1.9.5 Word process stories from business and computer courses
  - 1.9.6 Use graphic design skills acquired in art class



# **VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

A H E A D O F T H E C U R V E

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**The Virginia Beach City Public Schools, in partnership with the entire community, will empower every student to become a life-long learner who is a responsible, productive and engaged citizen within the global community.**

## **DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

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**Virginia Beach, VA 23456-0038**

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