

News Writing & Editing

*“Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”
~ Hebrews 12:2*

Course Description

Welcome to the class where the power of the written word comes to life! In News Writing and Editing, you will embark on a dynamic exploration of the art of journalistic expression. This course not only sharpens written communication skills but also empowers you to articulate your beliefs effectively.

As a class, we will participate in the creation of the school magazine, yearbook, and class marketing campaigns, creating narratives that resonate and inspire.

In this class, you will:

- Hone your ability to express ideas clearly and persuasively.
- Craft compelling narratives that engage and inform your audience.
- Learn the foundations of ethical journalism.
- Understand the role of media in shaping public opinion.
- Navigate through the principles of accuracy, fairness, and objectivity.
- Empower yourself to express your beliefs effectively.
- Develop the art of opinion writing and persuasive communication.

To join our class all you need is an interest in writing, storytelling, and a curiosity about the world. No prior journalism experience is required—just a passion for words and a desire to communicate effectively.

Units

The course includes 16 units:

Term 1: The Power of the Written Word

Unit 1: The Power of Words

Unit 2 Anatomy of a Newspaper

Unit 3: Welcome to Editopia: Editing for Dummies

Unit 4: Mastering the Art of Curiosity and Query

Term 2: Choose the Write

Unit 5: Editopia: Return of the Syntax

Unit 6: Writer’s Charisma: Know Your Audience

Unit 7: Hooked on Words: Let’s Go Fishing

Unit 8: Unveiling Scribbling Secrets: Magazine Writing 101

Term 3: Crafting Conviction

Unit 9: The Grand Finale: Bringing it Home

Unit 10: Editopia- Mastering the Art of Word Wizardry

Unit 11: Is a Picture Really Worth 1,000 Words?

Unit 12: Techniques to Persuade, Propel, and Ponder!

Term 4: Unleash the Power of Your Pen

Unit 13: A Digital Odyssey in Writing

Unit 14: EditPolooza: The Power of Polishing

Unit 15: From Pen to Product: Writing Beyond the Page

Unit 16: Thinking to the Future

Course Assignments

In this class, students will complete several kinds of assignments, such as those listed below:

Editing Unit. Each term has an Editing unit designed to help you become the best technical writer possible. But be aware that these Editing units are not what they seem... ;)

Class Assignments. You will be given an array of assignments each unit to help you to put into practice what we are learning. The majority of these assignments can be finished in class.

Term Project. Each term has its own final project you will work on in stages. This assignment helps you to use all the skillsets we are learning that term into one final product. You will be given lots of time in class to work on these projects, but you may need to use some time outside of class to finish the project to the best of your abilities.

Course Outline**Term 1: The Power of the Written Word****Unit 1: The Power of Words**

Essential Questions / Discussion Topics

- How can I use the written word to inspire, persuade, and empower?
- What kind of writer am I?
- How Words Have Changed the World

Unit Projects:

- Introductions: Personal Profile
- Syllabus Quiz

Unit 2: Anatomy of a Newspaper

Essential Questions / Discussion Topics

- What is different about Newspaper Writing?
- What's a narrative?
- What is AP style?

Unit Project:

- House Fire Reporting

Unit 3: Welcome to Editopia: Editing for Dummies

Essential Questions / Discussion Topics

- Why do we Edit?
- How to Edit?

Unit Project

- Editing Practice Assignments

- Editing Quiz

Unit 4: Mastering the Art of Curiosity and Query

Essential Questions / Discussion Topics

- How to ask questions?
- How to give a professional interview

Term Project

- Personal Profile

Term 2: Choose the Write**Unit 5: Editopia: Return of the Syntax**

Essential Questions / Discussion Topics

- How do I properly use punctuation?
- English is hard!

Unit Project

- Editing Practice Assignments
- Editing Quiz

Unit 6: Writer's Charisma: Know Your Audience

Essential Questions / Discussion Topics

- Why is it impossible to know my audience?
- How do I best connect with my audience?

Unit Project

- Audience Workbook

Unit 7: Hooked on Words: Let's Go Fishing

Essential Questions / Discussion Topics

- How do I hook my readers from the very beginning?
- How to write a solid beginning?

Unit Project

- Hook Practice

Unit 8: Unveiling Scribbling Secrets: Magazine Writing 101

Essential Questions / Discussion Topics

- What is the difference in writing for a magazine?
- How do I express my beliefs in writing?

Term Project

- Magazine Article

Unit 9: The Grand Finale: Bringing it Home

Essential Questions / Discussion Topics

- How to end your papers?

Unit Project

- Ending Workbook

Unit 10: Editopia: Mastering the Art of Word Wizardry

Essential Questions / Discussion Topics

- How to edit like a champ
- How to edit more quickly

Unit Project

- Editing Practice Assignments
- Editing Quiz

Unit 11: Is a Picture Really Worth 1,000 Words?

Essential Questions / Discussion Topics

- How to take a good picture?
- How to choose the right image to accompany your words

Unit Project

- Yearbook Photos

Unit 12: Techniques to Persuade, Propel, and Ponder!

Essential Questions / Discussion Topics

- Persuasive Writing 101

Unit Project

- Persuasive Writing Assignment

Term 4: Crafting Conviction**Unit 13: A Digital Odyssey in Writing**

Essential Questions / Discussion Topics

- How to write in the digital age?
- How to capture the attention of people online

Unit Project

- Marketing Assignment

Unit 14: EditPolooza: The Power of Polishing

Essential Questions / Discussion Topics

- Am I an editing guru now?

Unit Project

- Editing Practice Assignments
- Editing Quiz

Unit 15: From Pen to Product: Writing Beyond the Pen

Essential Questions / Discussion Topics

- How to look at the product as a whole
- How to create a product your proud of

Term Project

- Yearbook Creation

Unit 16: Thinking to the Future

Essential Questions / Discussion Topics

- How do I continue my writing after this class?
- What can I do with my writing?

Unit Project

- Wrap it all up!

Grading: Point Breakdown

Term Editing Unit	150 Points
Class Assignments	350 Points
Term Project	500 Points

TOTAL 1000 Points

Grading: Scale

A = 100% - 94%	C = 76% - 74%
A- = 93% - 90%	C- = 73% - 70%
B+ = 89% - 87%	D+ = 69% - 67%
B = 86% - 84%	D = 66% - 64 %
B- = 83% - 80%	D - = 63% - 60%
C+ = 79% - 77%	F = 59% - 0%

Strategies for Success

- Demonstrate strong effort.
- Make significant or frequent contributions to the class.
- Complete and submit all in-class and homework assignments on time, unless otherwise excused by the instructor.
- Do not require more than one warning from faculty or administration to improve specifically identified misbehavior.

Remember: "It's through mistakes that you actually can grow. You have to get bad in order to get good." - Paula Scher

Instructor Contact Information

Miss. Micole Mayfield
mmayfield@ahsmail.com

