DVC Journalism

Syllabus  
Journalism is printing what someone else does not want printed…

–George Orwell

**Yearlong Driving Questions:**

1) Why is journalism important for our society?

2) In what ways can journalism negatively affect society?

**Course Description**:

Do you demand the truth? Do you believe in a person’s freedom of speech? Do you feel that we deserve a voice? A voice that will be heard and create change in the world in which we live? Journalism is the answer to these questions.

Journalism is powerful. It exposes the truth and does not allow individuals or organizations to get away with deceitful, greedy, or harmful acts. Think about it: without the power of journalism Richard Nixon would have gotten away with Watergate and enforcement officers would not be exposed for their violent actions on minorities. Journalism informs us and gives us the truth we deserve.

As a class, students will be the Founding Mothers and Fathers of DaVinci Schools’ Journalism program. We will publish our online newspaper every 2-3 weeks in which each student will compose a news article. From the inverted pyramid to the art of interviewing, we will learn what it means to be responsible journalists and the importance of delivering information to our community.

Our course will be mostly “student centered” in which you will all go through the journalism “cycle”. Every publication will be the same cycle, but with new ideas and current events.

Essential Skills

Writing

* Grammar
* Organization
* Commentary

Interview

* Credible sources
* Proper citation

Speaking and Listening

* Presentations and discussions

Grading

Each student is responsible for his or her own article and meeting all deadlines. Students will receive multiple essential skills grades at that end of every news cycle/publication. If a student does not submit an article, she/he will receive a ZERO. You cannot submit late articles: it’s “the news”, not “the olds”.

Supplies Needed

* Moleskin, notepad, or composition notebook (notes and brainstorming)
* Phone (conducting interviews, recording phone calls, photos, and film)
* Binder to stay organized

## Classroom Expectations

Be ***Respectful*** to everyone in the class. This is our classroom and we need to create a safe environment for everyone. You have to give respect to get respect.

Be ***on time*** for class.

Be ***prepared*** for class. Have all necessary materials for class when you walk through the door. All assignments are due at the beginning of class in the *Drop Box*. They will be lowered one grade for each day late. No exceptions or excuses!

Be ***responsible***! Take on the role of keeping yourself in check; complete your homework and assignments on time, perform your role in groups to your full potential, and take responsibility for your actions.

Treat others and property with ***respect***. Be open to all views and opinions. Be an active listener!

***Attitude*** is contagious! Check your negativity at the door! Come to class with a positive attitude, ready to learn.

***Get involved***! Be an active participant in class. It is expected that you approach the class with maturity, curiosity and the desire to question and explore.

***ABSOLUTELY NO*** cell phones or electronic devices are to be used during class time. They are to be shut off and put away, out of sight.