

# Journalism/Creative Writing Syllabus

Mrs. Méndez B13

619-344-5800 ext. 2013 email: [lmendez@sandi.net](mailto:lmendez@sandi.net)

What is journalism? Most people understand that journalism has to do with news, investigation, and opinion as presented through the mediums of newspapers, magazines, and television. But the modern conception of journalism has begun to shift, especially as websites, blogs, and podcasts have become more common. In this course, we will explore the many different genres we can use to express ourselves.

**Genres: News articles, editorials, reviews, features, profiles, sports articles, columns, interviewing, poems, narratives, etc.**

## Materials for Class:

- Writing utensil (pencil, blue or black ink pen)
- A notebook or journal (spiral notebook, composition notebook, or bound journal)
- Ready minds & Creativity
- USB Flashdrive (recommended)

## Homework

Since this is an elective/exploratory class, I am structuring the class to allow students time in class to complete all assignments. With that being said, I expect quality work. If you do not spend your time in class conscientiously, you may have some writing to complete outside of class.

## Grade Breakdown:

Category	Percentage
Free Writes/Writing Prompts in Class/Journal	30%
Published Writing Piece (Articles, Stories, etc.) and Presentation	30%
Computer Skills	20%
Student Self-Assessment (see below for what you will grade yourself on)	20%

Participation (effort, hard work) means	- Follow directions the first time they are given. - Come to class prepared every day - Share regularly. Give good feedback. Ask good questions. - Take ownership of your results; be accountable; don't blame. - Ask for help when you need it; use the advice I give you.
Progress means	- Improvements in participation - Improvements in performance - Setting and achieving specific goals
Performance means	- Quality of student work

*Students will decide the grade they should receive for each of these three categories. They will then write a paragraph for each category to explain their reasoning. Students should think of the grades as:*

"A" means "Above and beyond".  
"B" means "Basically fine".  
"C" means "Could've done better".  
"D" means "Didn't try."

*This is an assessment that will be completed in class halfway through the quarter and at the end of each quarter. We will practice will informal self-assessments to model what is expected.*

**Free Writes/Writing Prompts in Class/Journal Writing**

During class, students will respond to a writing prompt each day in their notebooks. On certain days, we will revisit this prompt and edit it. There will also be other writing formats for students to explore. Students will be evaluated on their effort and participation in writing.

**Published Writing Piece**

Students will have the opportunity to select a work and draft it into a Published piece of writing.

**Presentation**

Students will present in a variety of ways: public speaking, multi-media, video.

**Peer Reviews**

After completing the first draft of their written piece, students will form small groups to provide and receive constructive feedback on their writing. Students will then have the opportunity to revise their draft based on peer feedback.

*Information included in the syllabus is subject to change. Any changes will be announced and covered in class.*

-----Please review the syllabus with your child and sign and return the bottom portion.-----

\_\_\_\_\_ **I have read and discussed the Journalism/Creative Writing syllabus with my parent/child.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**Questions/Comments/Suggestions:**