



# Southmoreland School District

## Journalism Intro to Production Overview

### **Journalism Intro to Production Overview:**

This full-year course is designed for students who have shown proficiency and/or mastery of the research, critical thinking, communication, and writing skills taught in the "Journalism I/Introduction to News Writing" course. Through staff workshops, students will collaborate to brainstorm, collect, report, verify, revise, edit, design, and produce accurate, engaging, and quality news coverage for the school-wide newspaper/news magazine. \*This course may be repeated for credit.

### **Module Titles:**

**Module 1:** History and Purpose of Journalism

**Module 2:** Evolution of Journalism in the Digital Age

**Module 3:** Assessing Styles for News

**Module 4:** Assessing Styles for Features

**Module 5:** Assessing Styles for Entertainment/Reviews

**Module 6:** Assessing Styles for Sports

**Module 7:** Assessing Styles for Opinions/Editorials

**Module 8:** Ethics/Standards of Journalism, through the Understanding of Bias and Propaganda

**Module 9:** Critique and Revision of Writing using AP Style Standards

### **Module Overviews:**

#### **Module 1: History and Purpose of Journalism**

This module discusses the historical development of journalism, from its American origins during Revolutionary times to today. Students will also review the purpose of journalism and its endeavor to provide citizens with the needed information to make the best informed decisions about their everyday lives, communities, societies, and (most importantly) government.

#### **Module 2: Evolution of Journalism in the Digital Age**

Because we are more globally connected thanks to the internet, "news doesn't necessarily resemble your neighbors." Students will understand how people are no longer restricted "to an echo chamber" (the voices they already know, the



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opinions/thoughts they have come to trust) with people whom they more likely agree with on major world, national, and local issues. (Quote elements from John Green, Crash Course, The Clinton Years #45)

### **Module 3-7: Assessing Styles for News | Features | Entertainment/Reviews | Sports | Opinions/Editorials**

No matter the style of the news story, students will survey the various purposes of news whether it informs and/or entertains its audience. Students will review, evaluate, and write news stories and their distribution play an important role in shaping the intimate and global viewpoints that have been circulated throughout time (a greater focus will be given to the most recent headlines). Students will also consider the massive responsibility the press has in influencing the opinions and attitudes of large numbers of people. It will be discussed how each style of communication affects and shapes public opinion.

### **Module 8: Ethics/Standards of Journalism, through the Understanding of Bias and Propaganda**

Students will review, memorize, and apply the Society of Professional Journalists' Code of Ethics, which implores journalists to perform the following: *Seek Truth and Report It*, which includes fact-checking, not intentionally distorting information, identifying sources, avoiding stereotypes, and supporting the open exchange of opinions; *Minimize Harm*, which includes demonstrating compassion for sources and subjects of stories and protecting the privacy of individuals (the code, however, makes no prohibition to interfere with national security yet); *Act Independently*, which includes avoiding conflicts of interest and corruption, and resisting the attempts of advertisers and special interests groups to influence the news; and *Be Accountable*, which includes correcting mistakes, inviting criticism, and exposing unethical practices of the media.

### **Module 9: Critique and Revision of Writing using AP Style Standards**

In this module, a focus will be placed upon the evaluation and validity of sources, foundational grammar, and the use of reference materials. Students will problem solve, locate sources, search for and evaluate information, and publish their work through publication in the school newsletter.

In preparation for various types of news writing, students will review grammar, usage, and mechanics. Emphasis on vocabulary, voice/style, sentence structure (simple, complex, compound, and compound/complex), and AP Style will be emphasized.