

Introduction to Journalism – Binder Guidelines

Your binder will be used for multiple purposes. These purposes include (but are not limited) to the following:

Warm-Ups: Every day, there will be a warm-up on the board. YOU SHOULD BE SITTING IN YOUR SEAT AND WRITING WHEN THE BELL RINGS. We will discuss the AP Style Rules and the necessary corrections to each sentence.

Class Notes: There are times where you will need to take informative notes about new subject matter. Use these opportunities to practice effective note-taking skills.

Writing Assignments: You should use this notebook to make notes, collect research, record the questions and answers for interviews that you conduct for writing assignments, and write outlines and drafts of articles.

Journals: These should reflect that you are investigating various writing styles through exposure to mainstream news sources. I expect you to read articles from the *New York Times*, the *Winston-Salem Journal*, the *LA Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, etc. and to listen to news from NPR or other broadcast sources and to submit a journal entry on every Tuesday class. These should be typed and labeled as “Journal #__” and date numerically for the day it is due. Each part of the entry should be labeled CLEARLY with one of the following headings, and each part should come from a different news source:

Word of the week: Choose an interesting word from an article. What does it mean? What is its etymology? Why did you choose it; in other words, what made it jump out at you?

Error of the Week: Where did you find the error (include page number, article title, reporter’s name and publication)? Explain what the error is (including why it’s an error and how one would fix it).

Headline challenge: Find a headline from a professional newspaper you think needs to be fixed and do so.

Favorite passage: Write it out in quotation marks and then explain what makes it so effective. Choose a passage based on the QUALITY of the writing, not the content. (For example, your reason for selecting the passage cannot be, “I chose this because I really love the Carolina Panthers.” It can be something like, “I selected this passage because the use of the quote from the little Sudanese boy really drove home the reporter’s point about the devastating effects of violence on children.”

Make sure that you are citing your sources properly! We will discuss how to do this in class.

News Beat: You will be assigned a region of the world or a certain topic in which you are interested. (Think about the letter you wrote to me about yourself – what are you passionate about? What class would you design for yourself, if you could study a topic of your choice for the year?) You will become an expert in this field throughout the year by researching and reading news stories about the issue – as journalists say, you will be in charge of covering this “beat”. On every Wednesday class, you will turn in a typed report of your findings, which should be at least one typed page in length. What important events have occurred since your last News Beat report? You must base the information off of at least two different reputable news sources. You will staple your typed report (we will discuss how to structure this writing) to your collected sources (most likely printed off from the internet).

In addition to the written reports, you may be called all, at any point in class on ANY day, to let your classmates know what is going on with your beat. This will count as a class participation grade, so make sure to keep up with the news so that you will convince us that you are becoming an expert! At the end of the year, you will complete a cumulative project centered on your selected area of expertise.

NOTE: Technology issues (as in, “My printer broke last night” do NOT serve as an excuse to not turn in work). Do not wait until the last minute to complete assignments!! Let me know immediately if you have limited access to a computer, so that we can make arrangements for you to complete the assignments appropriately!!

Keep your binders organized, as this is a helpful skill in being an effective reporter!! You never know when there might be a binder check..... ☺