

Introduction to Journalism

Ms. Doyle Classroom Expectations

The purpose of this semester-long elective is to explore the field of journalism and to develop your communication skills. Topics include the history of journalism, law and ethics of journalism, reporting and writing for news, features, sports and opinions, photography, desktop publishing and more. The skills you will learn and practice in this class are required for entrance into the Newspaper class, in which staff members produce the monthly, award-winning *Talon Times*.

Activities and Grading

Activities will include quizzes, tests, daily assignments, group work, papers, presentations, and more. The grading scale is as follows: A = 90-100%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%. Your daily class work will be worth 60% of your overall semester grade, and major papers and presentations will be worth 25%. Your semester exam will make up the last 15% of your grade.

Class Expectations

- Show respect to Ms. Doyle and your classmates
- Come to class prepared every day and on time
- Complete daily activities and assignments and turn them in on time
- Show ownership of your learning
- Electronic devices must be out of sight during the class period
- Food and drinks other than water are not allowed in class
- All other school rules and consequences apply. Refer to your student handbook.

Late Work

Late homework will be accepted for partial credit within a reasonable amount of time. For major assignments such as the papers and speeches you will receive 10% off for every day your work is late.

Absences

Excused: If you are sick or absent for some other legitimate, unplanned reason, it is your responsibility the day you return to get the make up work from me, find out what you missed and make arrangements to hand in missing work. You will have the number of days you missed to make up the work for full credit. If you are going on a family vacation or a school field trip, it is your responsibility to make arrangements with me regarding work you will miss before the scheduled absence. If you do not do this, you will receive a zero on assignments you missed.

Unexcused: For unexcused absences, you may make up work from the day you missed but not for credit. Homework assignments missed will be counted as a zero.

I have read the above document and understand its contents.

(Student signature)

(date)

(Parent signature)

(date)