



# CAP JOURNALISM

*Montgomery Blair High School*

## **INSTRUCTOR: MS. FORMAN**

Contact: sarah.forman@mcpsmd.net

In my newsroom, you will step into the role of journalist each day. In investigative teams, we will explore a variety of relevant stories from local, national, and global headlines. We will read articles, listen to podcasts, analyze blogs, and view broadcasts/videos produced by diverse authors. The focus of this course is to develop skills in journalism, media literacy, and college and career readiness.

This course will require you to participate in difficult discourse with your peers. Bring your opinions to class and share them openly, while honoring your classmates' First Amendment right to do the same, regardless of whether or not your beliefs align.

In this project-based classroom, I will step into the role of facilitator, centering our learning on student-driven inquiry. The ultimate goal is to put our learning to practice, producing a digital publication for our community.

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

### **UNIT 1. INTRODUCTION TO MEDIA BIAS**

**HOW DO INSTITUTIONS LIKE LEGACY PAPERS STRENGTHEN OR WEAKEN INDIVIDUAL REPORTING?**

### **UNIT 2: THE CODE OF ETHICS**

**HOW DOES A JOURNALIST PROVIDE AN AUTHENTIC PERSPECTIVE OF THAT CULTURE THAT IS NOT THEIRS?**

### **UNIT 3: MULTIMEDIA NEWS AND EDITORIALS**

**WHAT STYLISTIC TECHNIQUES ARE MOST EFFECTIVE IN ACCOMPLISHING A REPORTER'S GOALS?**

### **UNIT 4: FEATURES**

**WHY IS THE HUMAN CONDITION SIGNIFICANT WHEN REPORTING THE NEWS? WHICH ASPECTS OF THE HUMAN CONDITION ARE MOST IMPACTFUL?**

### **UNIT 5: THE MPPIA AND FOIA (PUBLIC INFORMATION)**

**HOW DOES A KNOWLEDGE OF THE PAST PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR CHANGE?**

### **UNIT 6: RUNNING AN ONLINE NEWS OUTLET**

**HOW CAN SKILLS AND PROCESSES BE COMBINED ACROSS DISCIPLINES TO PRODUCE AN ORGANIZED, SOPHISTICATED, WELL-EDITED FINAL PRODUCT?**



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## **ATTENDANCE**

It is my expectation that you attend every live Zoom class with your camera on, ready to work. I understand, however, that extenuating circumstances may prevent you making it to every class.

In the event you miss a live session, you may be marked present through alternative methods.

See how in [MCPS's virtual learning attendance expectations](#).

## **DUE DATE WINDOWS**

Depending on the assignment:

1. I will provide you with a due date window,
2. we break down larger projects into manageable chunks, or
3. you will set your own due dates.

I do not penalize late work, but I do expect you to make your best effort to get work in on time. The penalty of falling behind is enough for stress for one pandemic.

## **ACADEMIC SUPPORT**

The best way to reach me for academic support is the [email](#) listed at the top of this page.

We can chat through email or set up an appointment to meet via Zoom. I will return your email within 24 hours, Monday-Friday.

I am also available during our Wednesday Check-in period for help.

## **GENERAL GUIDELINES**

I am your editor and your teammate, here always to provide additional feedback or support. Don't hesitate to ask for my assistance.

Take risks! Participate in discourse while always keeping an empathetic ear open.

Take pride in your work in this class, and ensure integrity in the work you submit. Plagiarism and lying are some of the gravest errors a Journalist can make, as evidenced by former NBC News host, Brian Williams.