

Journalistic Writing

Course Description: Students learn to gather and write news, commentary, and feature stories that may be used in a quarterly magazine, daily announcements slide, and the end-of-quarter assembly. Projects introduce students to multimedia publishing technologies.

Attendance: Students are required to be in school every day. Students are responsible for communicating with their teachers to make up for missed learning.

Essential Skills: As an elective, journalism supports the ELA standards for grades 9-12 but especially emphasizes the following standards. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, style, and tone are appropriate to grade-specific task, purpose, and audience. Use a writing process to develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience. (Editing for conventions should demonstrate command of Language standards 1–3 up to and including grades 11–12.) Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, publish, and update individual or shared writing products in response to ongoing feedback, including new arguments or information.

Course Expectations: Although not everything is graded, everything is important. To demonstrate growth and learning, students will need to:

1. Participate in class activities (take notes, work in a group, complete in-class tasks, ask questions) without distractions (cell phones, earbuds, games, etc.)
2. Use morning time and the teacher to seek help outside of class when needed.
3. Complete all assessments within teacher timelines.

Grading

Learning (Practice) includes instructional activities in and outside of class and are not used in grade determination.

Skyward Assessment (Grades) may include quizzes, labs, learning checks, tests, speeches, performances, and projects.

Calculations:

Course Grade	
Semester Grade	95%
Culminating Activity/Project/Exam	≥ 5%

Final Grade	
A	100% - 90%
B	80% - 89%
C	70% - 79%
D	60% - 69%
F	0% - 59%

Rapid City Alternative Academy Courses:

- Will determine grades based on student learning and growth.
- Will not include practice and behavior in grade determination.
- Will give all students regardless of absence an opportunity to demonstrate learning.
- Will not include extra credit.

Instructional Resources: Students will search and supply various newspaper, magazine, and online news articles. Student-sourced newspapers (local & national), magazines, and online sources.