

Montgomery County Community College  
 ENG 165  
 Journalism I  
 3-3-0

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

ENG 165 introduces students to the art of journalistic writing. In this course, the student learns to present news in an objective and responsible manner, a skill that involves recognizing newsworthy events, organizing information, pitching articles to news editors, writing articles suitable for publication, and submitting properly formatted copy to news outlets, both traditional print and online. The student also learns to locate, use, and accurately reference various sources of information, both online and through interview and observation.

**PREREQUISITE(S):**

“C” or better in ENG 101 English Composition I

**CO-REQUISITE(S):**

None

LEARNING OUTCOMES Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
1. Explain the historical and political relevance of a free press.	Historical Paper	Portfolio
2. Describe the organization and function of traditional newspapers as well as online newspapers and blogs.	Historical Paper	Portfolio
3. Identify newsworthy issues, topics, and events.	Discussion Lectures Written Pitches	Portfolio
4. Appraise sources, both traditional and electronic.	Lecture Discussion Story Writing	Portfolio
5. Conduct interviews.	Story Writing Discussions	Portfolio
6. Access public records.	Lecture Research	Portfolio

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
7. Write articles for publication in accordance with AP style guide standards.	Story Writing Lectures Discussions	Portfolio
8. Use visuals to supplement the text of written articles.	Lectures Blog Entries Written Articles	Portfolio
9. Pitch articles to news editors.	Lectures Simulation Conferences Written Pitch	Portfolio
10. Employ ethical journalistic standards.	Lecture Discussion Story Writing	Portfolio

At the conclusion of each semester/session, assessment of the learning outcomes will be completed by course faculty using the listed evaluation method(s). Aggregated results will be submitted to the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. The benchmark for each learning outcome is that *70% of students will meet or exceed outcome criteria.*

#### SEQUENCE OF TOPICS:

1. Background
  - a. History of free press
  - b. Political role of journalism
2. Understanding Media Outlets
  - a. Print
  - b. Online
3. Types of Reporting
  - a. Straight news
  - b. Profile
  - c. Feature
  - d. Press release
4. The Writing Process
  - a. Identifying news
  - b. Research
  - c. Interviewing
  - d. Inverted pyramid
  - e. Leads
  - f. Visuals
  - g. Statistics
  - h. Revising for clarity
  - i. Editing
5. Pitching News Stories
6. Formatting Copy
7. Writing and the News

## LEARNING MATERIALS:

Assigned texts:

*Associated Press Stylebook 2011.*Harrower, Tim. (2006). *Inside Reporting: A Practical Guide to the Craft of Journalism.*

Daily newspapers, as assigned.

Other learning materials may be required and made available directly to the student and/or via the College's Libraries and/or course management system.

## COURSE APPROVAL:

Prepared by: Sam Whyte

Date: 1984

Reviewed by: Eleanor James

Date: 6/1998

Revised by: Marc Schuster

Date: 11/2012

VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification:

Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D.

Date: 1/21/2013

Revised by: Marc Shuster

Date: 5/25/2017

VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification:

Date: 5/25/2017



*This course is consistent with Montgomery County Community College's mission. It was developed, approved and will be delivered in full compliance with the policies and procedures established by the College.*