

## High School Course Description for **Journalism IV**

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**Course Title:** Journalism IV

**Curricular Area:** English

**Course Number:** ENG 491

**Length:** One year

**Grade Level:** 12

**Prerequisites:** permission of instructor

**Meets a UC a-g Requirement:** g- elective

**Meets NCAA Requirement:** *none*

**Meets High School Graduation Requirement for:**  
elective credit

### Course Description

Journalism IV is an advanced workshop in newspaper reporting and editing with students responsible for the production of the high school newspaper. It is a college preparatory course designed for fourth-year staff members and is held concurrently with Journalism I – III. The course stresses advanced journalistic and expository writing skills in addition to intense application of written conventions, word usage, grammar, and style rules as carried out in all phases of the production of the school newspaper. Students continue to improve demonstrably from previous year, to take on new challenges, and to add responsibilities that involve leadership roles and specific leadership positions.

The purpose of Journalism IV is to improve a student's quality of critical thinking and writing skills by requiring them to read classical and contemporary literature as well as journalistic non-fiction. Students will be required to discuss critically the ideas in the literature and relate these ideas to current community and campus concerns for the newspaper publication. Additionally, emphasis will be placed on in-depth investigative critiques and analyses of professional writers in both the journalism profession and literary fields. Students will review research skills and techniques to further evaluate, discuss, and compare various works and styles of outstanding authors. The course will stress interviewing skills, advanced news writing/reporting, editing, revising, and updating of stories in progress, and meeting deadlines.

### Alignment

This course is aligned to the California Common Core State Standards for English-Language Arts.

### Instructional Materials

Ferguson, Donald L., Jim Patten and Bradley Wilson (2001), *Journalism Today*, Lincolnwood, IL: National Textbook Company. ISBN: 0-658-00404-2 (New text approved August 9, 2002)

### Exit Criteria

By the end of the school year, students are expected to do the following:

1. Compose publishable stories for school publications.
2. Assist in the publishing of 8-10 issues of the school newspaper for the entire year.
3. Demonstrate competent interviewing skills.
4. Read classical literature in the following genres: drama, poetry, the novel, and non-fiction.
5. Compose journalistic stories that demonstrate the appropriate characteristics of the newspaper genres of News, Sports, Opinion, and Features
6. Write-in depth investigative research features with statistical polls.
7. Meet deadlines.
8. Copy, edit, and revise stories that demonstrate appropriate newspaper style, accuracy, mechanics, spelling, and grammar, both on the student's own and as directed by editors.

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- 9. Cover various beats as directed, fulfilling the obligations as to regular input of stories from the area assigned.
- 10. Demonstrate word processing and desktop publishing skills as applied to the production of the school newspaper.

### **Grading Criteria**

<u>Activities</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Grammar and usage, vocabulary, spelling, adherence to news style, class participation .....	15%
Tests, major writing assignments, meeting of deadlines, composition of news, sports Features, and editorial stories.....	50%
Homework, in-class assignments, quizzes, oral discussions, and presentations .....	15%
Final exam grade .....	20%
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Total: .....	100%

### **Development Team:**

This course description was updated in June 2012 by Mary Beth Richardson.

# High School Course Description for **Journalism IV**

## California Common Core State Standards for English-Language Arts Emphasized in Journalism IV:

### STANDARDS FOR WRITING

#### Grades 11–12 students:

#### Text Types and Purposes

1. Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
  - a. Introduce precise, knowledgeable claim(s), establish the significance of the claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that logically sequences claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.
  - b. Develop claim(s) and counterclaims fairly and thoroughly, supplying the most relevant evidence for each while pointing out the strengths and limitations of both in a manner that anticipates the audience’s knowledge level, concerns, values, and possible biases.
  - c. Use words, phrases, and clauses as well as varied syntax to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships between claim(s) and reasons, between reasons and evidence, and between claim(s) and counterclaims.
  - d. Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.
  - e. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.
2. 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.
  - a. Introduce a topic; organize complex ideas, concepts, and information so that each new element builds on that which precedes it to create a unified whole; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., figures, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
  - b. Develop the topic thoroughly by selecting the most significant and relevant facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience’s knowledge of the topic.
  - c. Use appropriate and varied transitions and syntax to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts.
  - d. Use precise language, domain-specific vocabulary, and techniques such as metaphor, simile, and analogy to manage the complexity of the topic.
  - e. Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.
  - f. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented (e.g., articulating implications or the significance of the topic).

#### Production and Distribution of Writing

4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)
5. 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 on page 55.)

#### Research to Build and Present Knowledge

7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation
8. Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of the task, purpose, and audience; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and overreliance on any one source and following a standard format for citation.
9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
  - a. Apply grades 11–12 Reading standards to literature (e.g., “Demonstrate knowledge of eighteenth-, nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century foundational works of American literature, including how two or more texts from the same period treat similar themes or topics”).
  - b. Apply grades 11–12 Reading standards to literary nonfiction (e.g., “Delineate and evaluate the reasoning in seminal U.S. texts, including the application of constitutional principles and use of legal reasoning [e.g., in U.S. Supreme Court Case majority opinions and dissents] and the premises, purposes, and arguments in works of public advocacy [e.g., The Federalist, presidential addresses]”).

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## STANDARDS FOR SPEAKING AND LISTENING

### Grades 11–12 students:

#### Comprehension and Collaboration

1. Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on *grades 11–12 topics, texts, and issues*, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
  - ~~a. Come to discussions prepared, having read and researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence from texts and other research on the topic or issue to stimulate a thoughtful, well-reasoned exchange of ideas.~~
  - b. Work with peers to promote civil, democratic discussions and decision-making, set clear goals and deadlines, and establish individual roles as needed.
  - c. Propel conversations by posing and responding to questions that probe reasoning and evidence; ensure a hearing for a full range of positions on a topic or issue; clarify, verify, or challenge ideas and conclusions; and promote divergent and creative perspectives.
  - d. Respond thoughtfully to diverse perspectives; synthesize comments, claims, and evidence made on all sides of an issue; resolve contradictions when possible; and determine what additional information or research is required to deepen the investigation or complete the task.
  
3. Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric, assessing the stance, premises, links among ideas, word choice, points of emphasis, and tone used.

## STANDARDS FOR LANGUAGE

### Grades 11–12 students:

#### Conventions of Standard English

1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
  - a. Apply the understanding that usage is a matter of convention, can change over time, and is sometimes contested.
  - b. Resolve issues of complex or contested usage, consulting references (e.g., *Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of English Usage*, *Garner's Modern American Usage*) as needed.
  
2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
  - a. Observe hyphenation conventions.
  - b. Spell correctly.

#### Knowledge of Language

3. Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.
  - a. Vary syntax for effect, consulting references (e.g., Tufte's *Artful Sentences*) for guidance as needed; apply an understanding of syntax to the study of complex texts when reading.
  
5. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.
  - a. Interpret figures of speech (e.g., hyperbole, paradox) in context and analyze their role in the text.
  - b. Analyze nuances in the meaning of words with similar denotations.
  
6. Acquire and use accurately general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

## High School Course Description for **Journalism IV**

### Language Progressive Skills, by Grade

The following skills, marked with an asterisk (\*) in Language standards 1–3, are particularly likely to require continued attention in higher grades as they are applied to increasingly sophisticated writing and speaking.

Standard	Grade(s)							
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9–10	11–12
L.3.1f. Ensure subject-verb and pronoun-antecedent agreement.								
L.3.3a. Choose words and phrases for effect.								
L.4.1f. Produce complete sentences, recognizing and correcting inappropriate fragments and run-ons.								
L.4.1g. Correctly use frequently confused words (e.g., <i>to/too/two</i> ; <i>there/their</i> ).								
L.4.3a. Choose words and phrases to convey ideas precisely.*								
L.4.3b. Choose punctuation for effect.								
L.5.1d. Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb tense.								
L.5.2a. Use punctuation to separate items in a series.†								
L.6.1c. Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in pronoun number and person.								
L.6.1d. Recognize and correct vague pronouns (i.e., ones with unclear or ambiguous antecedents).								
L.6.1e. Recognize variations from standard English in their own and others' writing and speaking, and identify and use strategies to improve expression in conventional language.								
L.6.2a. Use punctuation (commas, parentheses, dashes) to set off nonrestrictive/parenthetical elements.								
L.6.3a. Vary sentence patterns for meaning, reader/listener interest, and style.‡								
L.6.3b. Maintain consistency in style and tone.								
L.7.1c. Place phrases and clauses within a sentence, recognizing and correcting misplaced and dangling modifiers.								
L.7.3a. Choose language that expresses ideas precisely and concisely, recognizing and eliminating wordiness and redundancy.								
L.8.1d. Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb voice and mood.								
L.9–10.1a. Use parallel structure.								

## Instructional Guide for **Journalism IV**

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### **Learning Experiences and Instruction:**

Teachers utilize the Direct Interactive Instruction model to introduce new skills and concepts that are essential to the grade level content standards, then reinforce and develop those skills each quarter with the goal of bringing students to mastery by the end of the fourth quarter. All instruction will be based on the “I do, We do, You do” scaffolding model with an emphasis on individual differentiation as needed. Teachers will use a variety of the following:

- Inquiry-based learning
- Engaged reading opportunities
- Think-pair-share
- Reciprocal teaching
- Cloze reading & writing
- Guided reading & writing
- Cognitive modeling
- Questioning strategies
- Graphic organizers/concept attainment
- Student-led groups/peer pairing
- Metacognitive learning: self-regulation, goal-setting, self-monitoring, and self-questioning

### **Support for English Language Learners:**

- SDAIE strategies
  - Flexible groupings
  - Peer Pairings
  - Use of Realia and manipulatives
  - Connections to daily life
- Texts/Materials in first language (per IEP)
- Instructional Aide assistance
- Vocabulary development

### **Support for Special Education Students:**

- Instructional Aide assistance
- Audio & visual aids
- Individualized academic instruction
- Modified assignments
- Modified texts
- Testing accommodations
- Flexible grouping
- Tutoring (peer & teacher)
- Computer-Guided instruction

### **Stretching the Lesson for GATE Students:**

Independent study supplemented with mentoring/tutoring

Depth & Complexity icons

Enriched materials and learning experiences

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