Common Course Outline
MCOM/ENGL 151
Introduction to Journalism
3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County

Description

MCOM/ENGL 151 – Introduction to Journalism introduces the skills, principles, and ethics of reporting. Students learn different styles of journalistic writing (feature, editorial, and news) as well as researching and interview skills.

3 Credits

Prerequisite: ENGL 101

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. distinguish between news, feature and opinion writing;
2. identify biased writing;
3. generate story ideas;
4. write effective news leads using Associated Press (AP) Style;
5. write effective news and feature stories using AP Style;
6. write effective commentaries using AP Style;
7. practice journalistic ethics;
8. apply libel and slander law and avoid those legal problems;
9. demonstrate the ability to meet deadlines;
10. prepare for and conduct effective interviews;
11. accurately report information from interviews; and
12. use quotes and attribution effectively.

Major Topics

   I.   Parts of a newspaper and news website
  II.   AP style
 III.   News writing
 IV.   Feature writing
  V.   Various forms of opinion writing
 VI.   Leads and nutgraphs
VII.   Different story structures
VIII. Interviewing

IX.   Collecting information
 X.   Checking sources
XI.   Ethical and legal considerations
XII.   Advertising; its role in influencing journalism and society
XIII.   Different types of media outlets
XIV.   Blogs

Course Requirements

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

Grading/exams

- Attendance and active participation in class discussions
- A minimum of one news article using AP style (500 words minimum)
- A minimum of one feature article using AP style (750 words minimum)
- A minimum of one editorial/commentary (500 words Minimum)
- One interview assignment
- Two examinations or four small assignments/quizzes

Written Assignments: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources.

Other Course Information

This course is a requirement for the Communication and Media Studies Area of Concentration.

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