

Course Syllabus - English for Journalists

Course Outline

1. Purpose and Principles of Journalism

In this introductory module students will learn about the role of journalism in democratic society and about the key principles of professional journalism.

2. Foundation of News Reporting

Students will learn the difference between various types of journalistic content and learn the key features of a news report.

3. News Pyramid: Headlines and Leads

Students will learn how to write a headline and a lead for a news report. Students will learn how to properly structure their news reports using the 'news pyramid'.

4. Getting Technical

Students will learn how to integrate quotes into their writing and some common grammatical mistakes when writing news articles.

5. Common Problems

Students will be introduced to the most common mistakes in news reports and how to avoid them.

6. Writing a News Report

Students will use the information they have learned in this course to write a news report in English. Students seeking a certificate for the course will be assessed on this report.

Outcomes

In this course you will learn to:

- Understand the role of the media in society
- Identify the guiding principles of journalism
- Identify the difference between news reports and other types of journalistic content
- Identify key features of news reporting
- Understand the inverted pyramid structure of a news report
- Understand how to write a headline for a news report
- Understand how to write a lead for a news report
- Understand effective sentence structure and grammar for news reporting
- Understand how to integrate quotes into your article with correct grammar
- Understand how to reference photographs and video
- Identify and fix common problems in news reports
- Write a news report using the concepts introduced in this course
- Use vocabulary relevant to news reporting

Assessment

You will be assessed on how well you meet the course outcomes. Assessment will consist of five (5) quizzes worth 10% and one news report worth 50%.

Students' final news report will be assessed on how well the student can demonstrate their use of the concepts introduced in this course. The report will be graded out of 50 on how well the student identifies an appropriate topic for a news report (5 points), uses appropriate content and structure for a news report (10 points), uses an appropriate headline and lead (10 points), identifies potential ethical issues in their report (10 points) and demonstrates good use of English vocabulary and grammar (15 points).

Quizzes (50%)	1. Purpose and principles of journalism	10
	2. Foundations of news reporting	10
	3. News pyramid	10
	4. Getting technical	10
	5. Common Problems	10
News Report (50%)	Identifies topic for news report	5
	Uses appropriate content and structure for news report	10
	Writes appropriate headline and lead	10
	Identifies potential problems	10
	Uses English vocabulary and grammar	15
Total		100

Students seeking a certificate for this course must complete all assessments and achieve at least 50% overall in this assessment.