

Journalism 1

Torah High School of San Diego

Makayla Caltrider

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TTh: 8:50 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

2026 - 2027 Course Syllabus

Course Description:

Journalism 1 will introduce students to news writing. By publishing a weekly newsletter, students will engage with their school, peers, community, and more as they write about what interests them most. Additional topics taught throughout the course include AP Style, interviewing skills, and reporting press conferences.

Torah High Today:

Students will oversee the publication of Torah High's weekly newsletter, Torah High Today. Stories will be pitched every Thursday, with a week to complete them, due the following Thursday for Friday publication.

Course Goals:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Pitch, report, write, and file a story on a real deadline every week
- Learn and apply AP Style to their news stories
- Interview sources effectively
- Edit their own and peers' work for accuracy, clarity, and style
- Use basic design/layout tools to produce a publication-ready newsletter
- Take on newsroom leadership roles (editor-in-chief, copyeditor, layout design, etc.) on a rotating basis

Required Materials:

- AP Stylebook 58th Edition (2026-2028) — provided
- Monthly reading assignment — provided
- Looseleaf Paper
- Pens/pencils
- Computer with access to Smore/MailerLite and Google Docs

Homework and Tests:

- 4 feature stories per semester
 - 600-700 words
 - Requires interviews
- 6 briefs per semester
 - 200-250 words
- AP Style quizzes (Twice a month — fall)
 - Stylebook allowed
- AP Style midterm
 - Correct a long-form article for AP errors without use of stylebook
- Press conference drills (Twice a month — spring)
 - Take down press conference details as accurately as possible
- News reporting final
 - Take down press conference details and write a breaking news story on the spot

Grading:

- **Feature Stories:** 25%
- **Briefs:** 20%
- **Participation:** 10%
- **Quizzes/Drills:** 10%
- **AP Style Midterm:** 15%
- **News Reporting Final:** 20%

Late Work:

Missing weekly stories may be submitted the following week for 50%.

Plagiarism and Using AI:

Plagiarising a story will result in a failing grade on the assignment. **You may not use AI to write stories.** Acceptable forms of AI are standard grammar, spelling, and punctuation checkers, and Otter.ai, used to record and transcribe interviews.

Teacher availability:

Please message me through Jupiter. I am available Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. Please allow one business day for a response. Messages sent over the weekend or over holidays will be answered as soon as school is back in session.