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**SYLLABUS**

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### **Course Description**

Award-winning author Daniel Schwabauer, creator of the highly-praised *One Year Adventure Novel* and *Cover Story*, fuses journalism with history in an innovative academic writing course. In the guise of a 1930s newspaper editor, Daniel Schwabauer teaches his newest cub reporter—the student—how to think critically, how to separate fact from interpretation, how to follow a lead, and how to use supporting evidence in a persuasive and ethical way. Under his training, the student reads the work of journalists of the past and writes personal essays, narrative essays, persuasive essays, and expository essays. *Byline* is designed for grades 8–12 and is 1 high school English credit. Sample lessons and more can be found at [BylineWriting.com](http://BylineWriting.com).

### **Objective**

Students who complete *Byline* will understand and practice the basic techniques of journalism, research, and academic writing as they create the written content for a historic newspaper in one school year (two semesters).

### **Students will**

1. Learn how the six basic elements of journalism (*who, what, when, where, why, and how*) are used to create different types of newspaper stories.
2. Understand various story structures, such as hard news, features, columns, exposes, etc.
3. Write 22 essays as cub reporters: narrative, expository, descriptive, and persuasive. (Students on the easier, “flex” track write 16.) Pieces range between short news briefs of 100–300 words and long features of 500–800 words or more.
4. Practice recording and citing their sources.

### **Overview**

#### **Semester one:**

The first three elements of journalism: *who, what, when*  
Character studies, hard news, columns, features, reviews, and briefs  
Profiles: creating personalities in a short space  
Using tension beats to compel readers through a story  
Fundamentals of research  
Lead, Body, and Conclusion: how structure changes by story type

## Semester two:

The second three elements of journalism: *where, why, how*  
Investigative reporting: yellow journalism and the muckrakers  
Writing propaganda: war, politics, and the commercial press release  
Inductive and deductive story structure  
Sports reporting: hard news and features  
Citation and Revision

## Grading

Grading is based on six unit tests, a student's pre-writing in the *Reporter's Notebook* and *Training Manual*, and the writing projects. There are 22 writing projects, but students on the easier, "flex" track write 16. The pre-writing and course projects are graded using simple rubrics provided in the *Teacher's Guide*.

## Reading

Students read examples of historic journalism from Ernest Hemingway, Nellie Bly, Ray Stannard Baker, Mark Twain, and many others. All required readings are included in the *Training Manual*. Additional reading is provided in the two included newspapers. The *Metropolitan World* (22,000 words) contains examples written by Mr. Schwabauer to demonstrate the sort of work students can expect to complete. The *Retro Metro* (37,000 words) contains historic examples of the various projects as they were written by journalists of the past.

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## Lesson Topics

### Who

- 1 Chronojournalism
- 2 Noting to See
- 3 Yesterday's News
- 4 Past, Present & Future
- 5 Yellow Journalism
- 6 Colorful Thoughts
- 7 Six Honest Serving Men
- 8 Moment of Truth
- 9 Finger Writing
- 10 Cleriwho?
- 11 Close-ups
- 12 Wholigans

## **What**

- 13 What's What
- 14 Backdrop
- 15 Making Change
- 16 Upside Down
- 17 Just Plain Wrong
- 18 In All Seriousness
- 19 The Feature
- 20 Pyramids
- 21 Changing Hearts
- 22 Advance Stories
- 23 Onesies
- 24 Listen My Children

## **When**

- 25 Tick Tock
- 26 Crossing the Rubicon
- 27 You Were There
- 28 Sound's Good
- 29 Fairy Dust
- 30 Storm-Rage
- 31 Man of Action
- 32 Seven Wonders
- 33 Hurdles
- 34 Suspenders
- 35 First!
- 36 Fired

## **Where**

- 37 Raking Muck
- 38 Contexting
- 39 What a Cite
- 40 Nellie Bly
- 41 Expose
- 42 Copy Cat
- 43 Pulitzer's World
- 44 "To an Anxious Friend"
- 45 The Editorial
- 46 Op-Ed
- 47 Advice Squad
- 48 "My Father's Suit"

## Why

49	Black and White
50	Monster Men
51	This Means War
52	October Surprise
53	Crucible
54	Lincoln's Beard
55	Pursuing Happiness
56	About Bananas
57	America for Me
58	Watchdogs
59	Story News
60	Sidebar

## How

61	How Now
62	The Importance of Color
63	Sport Shorts
64	The Sports Feature
65	The Voice of the Teller
66	Idol of Cheering Millions
67	Time Traveler
68	Challenger
69	Danger, Will Robinson!
70	Story Flow
71	Brighteners
72	Going to Press

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**Daniel Schwabauer**, M.A., is an award-winning author and teacher best known as the creator of the highly-praised high school writing curriculum, *The One Year Adventure Novel*, which he followed up with a middle school writing curriculum, *Cover Story*. His professional work includes stage plays, radio scripts, short stories, newspaper columns, comic books, and scripting for the PBS animated series *Auto-B-Good*. Daniel has received numerous writing awards, including the 2005 Ben Franklin Award for Best New Voice in Children's Literature for his novel, *Runt the Brave*, and the 2007 Best Books Award for his novel, *Runt the Hunted. The Curse of the Seer*, book three in the Legends of Tira-Nor series, released in 2015. He holds a master's in Creative Writing from the University of Kansas.