

Current Events Assignment

"The whole past is the procession of the present."
-Thomas Carlyle

One of the major goals of a social studies class is to equip you with the skills to analyze what is happening today, before it becomes history. Thus, you must know what is happening in the world around you, on a local, state, national, and international level. Each of you will be required to prepare and present one current event each semester. We will kept up to date and informed by one another. Current event presentations will be made in the beginning of class on Fridays.

Your current event article must come from either a newspaper, news magazine (TIME, Newsweek, National Geographic), or a reputable internet news source. Remember, an acceptable article must relate to current problems, issues, or programs that deal with our society or global matters that are appropriate for school. Entertainment or sports news is not acceptable.

This assignment is to be completed in 4 parts. All 4 parts must be included in your presentation. Please read the directions below and complete the attached graphic organizers. **Be sure to turn in your article with your presentation.**

Part 1: Summary and Annotation of Article

The first part is a short summary of the current event. **Make sure that you read the article, annotate for key words and concepts, then write your summary in your own words. DO NOT** copy word for word. If you do not understand the article ask someone at home to read it with you and discuss it. Keep the summary simple and brief as possible, but include all the important information like: Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?

Part 2: Event Analysis

The second part should answer the following questions:

1. What caused this event to happen?
2. What is happening because of this event?
3. How is it going to affect a large population of the world, your community, your school, your family or you? Who will it impact the most?
4. What are the potential long term effects of this event?
5. What is it that makes this event an important event? How is it important on a local, state, national or international level?

Part 3: Your Reaction

The third part of the assignment is your reaction to what you read. Take a stand and say what you really think about the event and how this event will affect others. You may say whatever you believe here, but make sure that you support your opinion with evidence from the article and/or other news sources about the event.

Part 4: Artifact

Because all students learn differently and have different strengths and weaknesses I would like to give you an opportunity to choose how you will present your article to the class.

You might create a poster, diorama, podcast, PowerPoint, a written essay (1 page), or another computer based presentation. If you have an idea about how you would like to present your article and need help, please talk to me about it.

This is to be completed at home using whatever media you feel most comfortable using. Be creative.

All materials needed for your presentation must be brought into school on or before your assigned presentation day.

What happened...

(Remember that different articles may give different information, answer as many as possible.
Do not write in complete sentences; just write notes.)

Who:

Handwriting practice area for 'Who:' with a dashed border and three horizontal lines.

What:

Handwriting practice area for 'What:' with a dashed border and three horizontal lines.

Where:

Handwriting practice area for 'Where:' with a dashed border and three horizontal lines.

When:

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Why/How:

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Why it matters...

1. What caused this event to happen?

2. What is happening because of this event?

3. How is it going to affect a large population of the world, your community, your school, your family or you?
Who will it impact the most?

4. What are the potential long term effects of this event?

5. What is it that makes this event an important event? How is it important on a local, state, national or international level?

Name: _____

Current Events Rubric

Name of Article: _____ Source: _____

Part	Score
Part 1: In your presentations, you have completed a summary of your event including all key information.	__/1
Part 2: You have answered all five questions in your presentation and completed the graphic organizers.	__/1
Part 3: In your presentations, you have included your opinion and thoughts on the topic.	__/1
Part 4: You have created a poster, diorama, PowerPoint, podcast, written essay (1 page), or an online presentation (wiki, webpage, etc...) to present your current event.	__/1

Total Score: ____/4