

### **CURRENT EVENTS ASSIGNMENT GRADING CRITERIA**

It is very important for people to know and understand the events that are happening locally, nationally, and globally. You are required to complete eight (8) current events assignments. The due dates are listed below and on the classroom calendar.

This assignment consists of reading an article pertaining to local, national, or international social studies content (history, economics, archeology, or politics). Articles submitted that do not involve one of the content areas will receive a zero, so avoid tabloids or anything entertainment industry/sports industry related at all costs! Articles can be found in credible newspapers, magazines, and broadcast news media sources. The purpose of this assignment is to:

- (1) increase your ability to research current issues in social studies,
- (2) to increase your understanding of a particular area (of your choosing) in social studies, and
- (3) to be able to critically evaluate news articles regarding contemporary issues.

You are to include the following criteria in your assignment:

#### **1. Paper Format- your paper will be typed**

- a. Times New Roman, 12-font
- b. Double- spaced
- c. Margins should be 1 inch on all sides of the paper (In Word, click on Layout  Margins  Normal)
- d. The entirety of your submission should be “justified” with the exception of the title of your article (Highlight the parts of the article that need to be justified and press the Ctrl button and the “J” button at the same time.... i.e.: Ctrl + J)
- e. Use the “Tab” key to indent your paper for the start of each paragraph. The tab key is found next to the letter Q on the keyboard. Use it instead of hitting the space bar a set number of times. It is much easier this way, and will give a clean, professional, uniform look to the paper.

#### **2. Proper Title**

- a. Include your **name** (printed), **article number**, **date turned in**, and **class period** in the *top left-hand corner*.
- b. What is the name of the article? (Exact wording in **bold-type**, centered on the page)
- c. Be sure to use proper grammar/ capitalization in your title. (*Many online news sites do not use proper capitalization.*)
- d. There will be a 10-point deduction if you do not have the title components on your paper, and in the correct format.

#### **3. Summary**

- a. In YOUR words, briefly summarize the content of the article.
- b. Six (6) sentence minimum.

- c. At least two of the sentences must be complex sentences.
- d. There is a 15-point deduction for not having a summary paragraph that provides an accurate summary of the presented article using the requirements listed above.

**4. Analysis**

- a. Who is involved in the article?
- b. What are the positions held by the people mentioned in the article?
- c. Can you detect author bias within the article? Explain. (you may use quotes)
- d. Six (6) sentence minimum using the examples above as a guide.
- e. At least two of the sentences must be complex sentences.
- f. There is a 25-point deduction for failure to present an analysis of the article that answers the questions provided using the requirements listed above.

**5. Impact – 35 pts.**

- a. Why is this event of significant? (Why should you or I care?)
- b. How is this event part of a larger issue? Explain how.
- c. How does this event impact you or your family? Explain how.
- d. Six (6) sentence minimum.
- e. At least two of the sentences must be complex sentences.
- f. There is a 35-point deduction for failure to present an explanation of the event's impact and significance using the requirements listed above.

**6. Article Source**

- a. Using the APA style of citation, where did you get the article?
- b. This will be placed at the bottom of the paper after the last paragraph.
- c. Failure to provide a credible source in APA format will result in a 15-point deduction.
- d. Example of how to write the source in APA format:

Last, First M. (Year, Month Date Published). Website. *Article title*. Retrieved from URL. (Yes, you have to give the entire URL for the citation.)

**7. Grammatical Errors and other miscellaneous penalties (Most common issues)**

- a. The use of contractions will result in a 1 pt. penalty per contraction used. Spell the words out.
- b. Failure to use Times New Roman 12 font will result in a 5-pt. deduction
- c. Failure to use “justified” for your paper will result in a 1 pt. deduction
- d. Each grammar or spelling error will result in a 1 pt. deduction per error (This is easy to eliminate if you correct the mistakes that Word finds and identifies for you.)
- e. Numbers
  - i. If a number is ten or less, you spell the number out.
  - ii. If the number is larger than ten, you can write the number instead.
  - iii. Exception to the rule: If the title of the story, or the sentence begins with a number, you spell the number out!
- f. Be careful with the title as internet journalists do not follow rules of grammar. You will need to follow the rules of grammar for your title and the article. If you are not sure what needs to be capitalized in a title, refer to the following short rules:
  - i. Title Case Capitalization

1. Capitalize the first word in the title
2. Capitalize the last word in the title
3. Capitalize the important words in the title; which refer to:
  - a. Adjectives (tiny, large, etc.)
  - b. Adverbs (quietly, smoothly, etc.)
  - c. Nouns (tablet, kitchen, book)
  - d. Pronouns (they, she, he)
  - e. Subordinating conjunctions (as, so, that)
  - f. Verbs (write, type, create)
- ii. Words Not Capitalized in Title Case- include short words and conjunctions:
  1. Articles (a, an, the)
  2. Coordinating Conjunctions (and, but, for)
  3. Prepositions (at, by, from)
  - a. If the student submits a current event that one large paragraph instead of the required three paragraphs, there will be a 35-point deduction

**Writing the Paper**

Write your paper in paragraph form using good sentence structure with proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation. As this is a formal writing assignment, refrain from using contractions. (Write “cannot” instead of can’t.) Write the paper in your own words. If you need to use a *short* quote, cite properly. Turning in a current event article that is more than 25% citation will result in a zero for plagiarism. The paper should be one page in length, double spaced with one-inch margins, and in 12-point font.

This is not a critique of whether the article is good or bad. This assignment is a reasoned opinion of the issue presented in the article. It is designed to get you to explore your attitudes/thoughts/beliefs on various topics in the current events world of Social Studies. Your opinion should draw on your own background knowledge and understanding, the information in the article, and your personal views. The result is expected to be an exercise in your critical thinking skills.

**DUE DATES**

Article #	Due Date	Article #	Due Date
1		5	
2		6	
3		7	
4		8	

- Honors World Geography will have **8** current event articles during the semester.

**This assignment will REQUIRE out of class time to complete.**

**News Sources (not all inclusive)**

- ◆ [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com) (New York Times - newspaper)
- ◆ [www.washingtontimes.com](http://www.washingtontimes.com) (Washington Times – newspaper)
- ◆ [www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com) (Washington Post – newspaper)
- ◆ [www.latimes.com](http://www.latimes.com) (Los Angeles Times – newspaper)
- ◆ [www.chicagotribune.com](http://www.chicagotribune.com) (Chicago Tribune – newspaper)
- ◆ [www.msnbc.com](http://www.msnbc.com) (NBC – broadcast T.V. news and its various entities)
- ◆ [www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com) (CNN – cable T.V. news)
- ◆ [www.usnews.com](http://www.usnews.com) (U.S. News & World Report - magazine)
- ◆ [www.foxnews.com](http://www.foxnews.com) (Fox – cable T.V. news)
- ◆ [www.abcnews.go.com](http://www.abcnews.go.com) (ABC – broadcast T.V. news)
- ◆ [www.cbsnews.com](http://www.cbsnews.com) (CBS – broadcast T.V. news)
- ◆ [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com) (Yahoo! – internet news, search by national and world)
- ◆ <http://online.wsj.com/home-page> (Wall Street Journal-newspaper)
- ◆ <http://www.cantonrep.com/> (Canton Repository- local news)
- ◆ <http://www.time.com/time/> (Time Magazine)
- ◆ <http://www.reuters.com/> (Reuters News Service)
- ◆ <http://www.ap.org/> (Associated Press News Service)
- ◆ <http://www.bloomberg.com/> (Bloomberg News Report)

An example of a properly formatted current event submission can be found beginning on the next page. Please follow the directions to have the best score possible.

John Smith

Article # 1 (This changes for each subsequent article you submit)

Submission date (Date you submit it)

Class period

### **Title of the Article**

Use a **minimum** of six grammatically correct sentences to give a summary in your own words about what the article is saying. You will be required to use at least two complex sentences in this paragraph. You will provide a summary in your own words about what was discussed in the article here. This is NOT giving your opinion, but instead telling me what the author wrote. Do understand that you should not plagiarize (word for word) what was said. Also, no more than 25% of your paper should be quoted material. That is equivalent to plagiarism based on collegiate standards the same as with not giving credit for material. Both will earn you a zero on the assignment, a referral for cheating, and a note to your parents.

Use a **minimum** of six grammatically correct sentences to analyze the article. You will be required to use at least two complex sentences in this paragraph. This is where you tell me who was involved, what positions they held (their opinions), and whether or not there was any author bias. For those unsure about the concept of author bias, you will need to determine if the author only gave one side of the story instead of showcasing all sides of the argument.

Use a **minimum** of six grammatically correct sentences to explain the impact the article had or could have on you and possibly your family. You will be required to use at least two complex sentences in this paragraph. You will explain why the event is significant (important). You will explain how it could be a part of a larger issue, and you will describe why you or I should care about what happened in this current event.

Cain, K. (2012, June 29). The Negative Effects of Facebook on Communication. *Social Media Today* RSS. Retrieved from <http://socialmediatoday.com>