

## **Current Event Assignment**

Students will locate and summarize an article that relates to the unit we will cover throughout the school year.

These are extremely easy points if you follow directions as there is no right or wrong. It should include the following information and be in the following format:

### **Specific Guidelines**

1. Choose a current event article with a length that should provide a sufficient amount of information for the assignment to be completed... at least 400 words. Print a full copy of the article and attach it to your paper.
2. At the top left corner of the paper, include
  - a. Name/Section:
  - b. Topic:
  - c. Title:
  - d. Author:
  - e. Date of article:
  - f. Source:
3. You have the option of choosing 3 current event articles to read and write about from the following topics. Please make sure that you choose 3 **different** topics: (If you have difficulty understanding the terms, please be sure to look them up.)

**Federalism - Current Event Assignment:** Students will find and summarize an article that discusses a modern issue regarding the balance of power between the levels of government and illustrates the debate of federalism.

**Political Culture - Current Events Assignment:** Students will find an article that involves American political culture, summarize it, and explain how it relates to family's political views (You will have to ask them their thoughts on this).

**Public Opinion - Current Event Assignment:** Students will find a public opinion poll from the past month and analyze the information contained in the poll. Student will bring the poll and their summary into class to share with the group.

**Political Parties-Current Event Assignment:** Students will find and summarize an article from the past month that pertains to the role that a political party has played in recent times. As with the other current event assignments, students are expected to connect learned information to their article.

**Elections - Current Event Assignment:** Students will find an article that pertains to the current presidential/congressional elections and how each depicts a particular candidate. After summarizing each article, students will then relate the information that they have learned from the Mr. Perry's class to each article.

**Interest Groups or Media –** Students will pick between interest groups or media and find an article that pertains to the role either has played in the past month. Be sure to connect learned information to the article.

**Congress - Current Event Assignment:** Students will find and summarize an article that illustrates some idea that we have covered that pertains to Congress.

**Presidency - Current Event Assignment:** Students will find and summarize an article that pertains to the presidency and connect the relevancy to the material covered.

**Judiciary - Current Events Assignment:** Student will find an article that details a modern decision or actions by the Courts, summarize the article, and show how the event relates to the materials that we have covered.

**Civil Liberties or Civil Rights**

Student will find an article that details a modern decision or action by the Courts, summarize the article, and show how the event relates to the material that you learned in Mr. Perry's class.

4. **For each of the articles**, a suggested length would be a two page paper (Times New Roman, 12 pt font, double spaced, 1.5 inch margins) that follows the following format:
  - a. **Summary:** (suggested length- a half page) Summarize the main points (who, what, where, when, why, how) of the article.
  - b. **Analysis:** (suggested length- a half page) This is where you need to connect it to what you have learned in your reading, class or in past current events. Please give examples to support your response.
  - c. **Evaluation:** (suggested length- a half page) Why is this event important to know about? Please give examples to support your response.
  - d. **Opinion:** (suggested length- a half page) What do you think about the current event? How does the event affect you? Your opinion must be based on prior knowledge and what you have read. Use government vocabulary and knowledge principles of democracy to support your response.
  
5. Below are examples of appropriate news sources for this assignment:
  - <http://news.bbc.co.uk/> BBC News
  - <http://online.wsj.com/public/us> Wall Street Journal
  - <http://www.economist.com/> The Economist
  - <http://www.bostonherald.com/> Boston Herald
  - <http://www.philly.com/philly/news/> Philadelphia Inquirer
  - <http://www.csmonitor.com/> Christian Science Monitor
  - <http://www.nytimes.com/> New York Times
  - <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/print/> Washington Post
  - <http://www.timesdispatch.com/> Richmond Times Dispatch
  - <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/> MSNBC Website
  - <http://www.npr.org/templates/topics/topic.php?topicId=1001> National Public Radio

*There are numerous other worthy sources for your current events so this list is just a sampling. Please refrain from tabloid media such as The National Inquirer, People Magazine, etc.*

6. The current event articles will be due by email at the beginning of our second class. I will remind you during our first meeting that it will be due the following day. Assignments can be emailed to me at [Dzeller@tcs-nyc.org](mailto:Dzeller@tcs-nyc.org). I look forward to seeing you all in September!

### **7. Academic Integrity**

Please remember that Academic Integrity is at the heart of a sound academic policy. The integrity of a school course and program depend on the honest completion of student work. Cheating and/or plagiarism violate the most basic understanding between a student and a teacher—that a student's work is his/her own.

- Cheating occurs when a student:
  - copies someone else's work and/or violates copyright.
  - allows someone else to copy his/her work.
  - allows someone to complete his/her work.
- If a student is caught cheating, he/she will:
  - need to take the opportunity to redo the assignment.
  - be referred for disciplinary action.

### Current Event Rubric

CATEGORY	2 (Exceeds Expectations)	1 (Minimum Expectations)	0 (Needs Improvement)
Summary	Summary of article is clear, complete, and accurate. All of the main points are addressed.	Summary of article is clear, complete, and accurate.	Summary of the article is unclear, incomplete, or inaccurate
Analysis	Analysis of how the event affects rights or lives of citizens is clear and complete. Made clear connection to reading, discussion, or past current events. Multiple valid examples are applied and extended to support the response.	Analysis of how the event affects rights or lives of citizens is clear and complete. Showed little to no connection to reading, discussion, or past current events. Valid examples are used to support the response.	Analysis of how the even affects right or lives of citizens lacks clarity. Showed no connection to reading, discussion, or past current events.
Evaluation	Evaluation of importance of the event is clear and complete. Multiple valid examples are applied and extended to support the response	Evaluation of importance of the event is clear and complete. Valid examples are used to support the response.	Evaluation of the importance of the event lacks clarity.
Opinion	Opinion of the current event is clear and complete. Student explains their opinion of the event and how the event affects them using prior knowledge, information from article, government vocabulary, and knowledge of principles of democracy.	Opinion of the current event is clear.	Opinion of the current event is incomplete.
Organization/Length	It meets the requirements of length and is organized according to the guidelines above.	It meets part of the requirements of length and or organization,	It meets none of the requirements.