

Guidelines for Current Events Assignments

1. Select an international article. Please note that a topic is usually assigned. For example, when we are studying Africa, you will be asked to do a current event on Africa.

Look for an article that could appear in any major newspaper. We want to focus on articles that feature stories that could appear as the first stories on the evening news. We want to focus on the big stories. It is rare that a sports or entertainment story is going to be the first story on the evening news.

2. Select an article, **not** a news summary.

While you may think at first it is faster and easier to do your report on a news summary (the summaries are usually only 2 or 3 paragraphs), you will find that a longer article gives you more to write about. Since you are required to write 2 complete paragraphs, a longer article will make it easier by giving you more background to write about.

3. Select an article from a quality publication.

You may use a variety of national and international papers or magazines. Look for a byline (name of the author) or the name of a news service (such as AP, UPI, Reuters) at the beginning of the article as a way to verify that it comes from a good source.

4. Attach the article to your written work and include the name and date of the publication from which you got it.

You may print the story online, photocopy it, or cut it out of the paper or magazine. Do not tear out the article.

5. Write a one paragraph summary of the article.

Using your own words, write 5 to 7 sentences summarizing the article. If you use phrasing from the article you must include quotation marks. Do not copy from the article as I want to read your words. Look for key information and big ideas.

6. Write a second paragraph focusing on why you selected the article, why you think the event or issue is important, and a prediction as to what may happen; this is your opportunity to discuss the article with me.

7. As with all of your writing, you must use correct grammar and spelling.

If you hand-write the paragraphs make sure it is done neatly. Take pride in your work.

8. The current event is due at the start of class.

You will have time in class to staple the article to your work but there will be no time for trips to lockers or to print off your work on the computer. You need to plan in order to be ready on time. The public library is open most evenings and weekends.

9. Be prepared to report to the class on your article.

Sometimes we take time in class to share our events. Be prepared. Know your article and be able to locate on our class map the country discussed in your article.

Rubric for Current Events

To meet standard (7-8 pts):

International article; attached to summary

One-paragraph summary

One paragraph of comments, observations, and connections

Handed in at start of class

Proper usage

To exceed the standard (9-10 points):

An especially challenging or interesting article

More extensive summary

More extensive comments

Unique comments, observations and connections

Word processed

Below standard:

Article is not cut out

Article is not attached

Work is not labeled with name, name of source or date

Article is a summary or of poor quality

Limited written summary/comments

Copies from article