

Current Events Assignment Sheet

Current events are designed to connect the past, what you're learning in class, to the present, what is currently making history. A current event is due the last day of every month through Google Classroom. Due dates are as follows unless otherwise notified:

August 31 st	October 31 st	January 31 st	March 31 st
September 30 th	November 30 th	February 28 th	April 30 th

This assignment is worth a total of 35 points:

1. **The Article (5pts)** - Find and read a current news article that relates to American History or politics, for example: elections, anniversaries of major events (i.e. September 11th), anything to do with the three branches of government (President, Congress, Supreme Court), etc. When choosing an article ask yourself these two questions: *is this a national issue*, meaning would someone on the other side of the country care as much about this as you do and second, *is this topic important enough to be included in future U.S. History textbooks?* If you have a question about an article's topic, please see me. The article must come from the month in which it is due and must be a reasonable length. Include a proper MLA citation of where the article came from.
2. **Summary (15pts)** – After reading the article, write a paragraph, 5-8 sentences, summarizing what the article was about. You must include specific details and at least one quotation from the article using a proper MLA parenthetical citation (author's last name page number).
3. **Opinion (15pts)** – Write another paragraph, 5-8 sentences, explaining to the reader what you think about the event that took place. Take a position on the event. Do you think it was right or wrong? Why? Use evidence from the article to support your view on the event and include at least one quotation from the article using proper MLA parenthetical citation. *If you don't have an opinion about the article in any way, then you should pick a different article.*

Important:

- ♦ The assignment should be typed using proper MLA formatting guidelines. (See back for details.)
- ♦ The assignment should be free of spelling and grammatical errors.
- ♦ The assignment should be submitted through Google Classroom no later than 8:00 PM on the due date. Late assignments will be docked heavily.
- ♦ Articles taken from the Internet need to be from a reputable source such as *The Arizona Daily Sun* or *New York Times*. If you're not sure about a source – ask.
- ♦ If time allows, extra credit will be given to those students who present their articles to the class and have all assignments turned in.

Your name, the teacher's name, the class, and the due date in this order: day, month, and year.

Joe Smith

Mrs. Shafer

American History 8

31 August 2021

Page numbers begin on page 1 and end on the final page. Type your last name next to the page number in the header.

Smith 1

Titles are centered. The title is not bolded, underlined, or italicized, but it is capitalized.

Your paper should be double-spaced, 12-point font, Arial or Times New Roman font. Each paragraph should be indented.

Give Your Paper a Title

This should be your summary paragraph. It should include five to eight meaningful sentences that describe what your news article was about. Describe the event in great detail, demonstrating to your teacher that you read and understood the article. The topic of your article should focus on one of the three branches of government: legislative, executive or judicial. It should be something that people across the country care about, not just people in Flagstaff or Arizona. It should also be something that is important enough to make future textbooks. You should not do your current event on crimes or sports; these topics do not have anything to do with the three branches of government. "Don't forget to include a quote from the article!" (Shafer 1)

This should be your opinion paragraph. It should include five to eight meaningful sentences that describe what you thought about the event described in the article you read. Describe your opinion in great detail, demonstrating to your teacher that you have a strong opinion about the event. Take a position on the event. Was it something good or bad for our country? "Don't forget to include a quote from the article that supports your opinion!" (Shafer 1)

Works Cited

Author's name. *Name of Site*. Name of institution (publisher), date of publication, URL.

Date of access.

For example: Felluga, Dino. *Guide to Literary and Critical Theory*. Purdue U, 28 Nov.

2003, www.cla.purdue.edu/english/theory/. Accessed 10 May 2019.