

8th Grade Current Event Article Assignment

The objective of the current events assignment is for students to practice reading informational writing, to gain knowledge of events going on in our country and the world, to practice written summarization, and to gain evaluation skills. Students will have four current events assignments to complete this semester and they will be worth a “current event” grade (10% of your total grade).

Students will need to find a current events article in a newspaper, magazine or online. Current events articles include news of politics, government, sports, entertainment and news from other countries. Students are encouraged to do a large variety of current events. Students may not do the same type of article every week. Students should not choose articles that are works of fiction or simply *gossip*. Choose an appropriate article. Articles should not be too short. An article with just a few paragraphs, an internet blurb, or the back page weather report with just pictures and temperatures are all considered inappropriate for this assignment. Current events should be TYPED in 12-point TIMES NEW ROMAN font and DOUBLE-SPACED.

Students are responsible for knowing when their due date is and being prepared on that date. If a student is absent, he or she must turn in their assignment the first day they return. It is perfectly acceptable to do current events a few days early, maybe even the preceding weekend, in order to avoid rushing through the assignment the night before. Students that turn in their current events early (the Wednesday before the due date) will receive *5 points extra credit*.

Steps:

1. Choose a newspaper (paper or online news source) and find an article that appeals to you. Article should be at least 4 paragraphs long and have enough "meat" to it that you can summarize the article and add your own opinion to it. CUT OUT / PRINT OFF the article. Make sure that if the article is on two separate pages that you take both pages of the article. --- The article can be from the local, state, national or world.
2. Read the article to make sure you understand what it is talking about.
3. Write an *introduction* that includes the name of the author, the title of the author, where you found the article (example: Washington Post, CNN, Fox News), and the date that the article was published. Give a brief ONE-SENTENCE synopsis (brief summary) introducing the article.
4. Write a paragraph (6-7 sentences) summarizing the article. Be sure you have **factual information** included in your summary.
5. Write a paragraph (6-7 sentences) with your opinion on the article. What did you think about the article? If the article made you feel a certain way, share your thoughts. Some ideas to consider, depending on the type of article you choose:

- Do you agree / disagree with what is being said?

- Did you learn something new?
- Are you more informed about what is going on in your area, the nation, the world?
- How does this article make you feel?
- Has the article inspired you?
- Does the article leave you wanting to "take action" and do something?

**DUE DATES (all on
Fridays):**

September 18, 2015
October 16, 2015
November 20, 2015
December 11, 2015

**RUBRIC for this
assignment:**

CATEGORY	25	21	19	13
Introduction	Current event includes name of the article, author, publication information, and a short synopsis of content	Current event is missing one of the following things: name of the article, author, publication information, and a short synopsis of content	Current event is missing two or more of the following things: name of the article, author, publication information, or a short synopsis of content	Current event does not give the title, author, publication information, or a synopsis
Summary	Main points of the article are clearly summarized.	Main points of the article are summarized, but vague.	Very short summary that leaves out one or more main details.	Article is not summarized well: main points are left out or incorrect.
Evaluation of Article	Clear opinion given with strong supporting reasons.	Clear opinion given, but lack of supporting reasons.	Unclear opinion and supporting reasons.	No evaluation given.
Mechanics: Grammar, Spelling and Syntax	Accurate spelling, grammar, punctuation and usage	Few spelling, grammar, punctuation and usage errors	Several spelling, grammar, punctuation and usage errors	Inaccurate spelling, grammar, punctuation and usage