



Current Event Assignment #1

You have spent the last week learning how to write analytically and also learning how to read a newspaper. We are now going to take that knowledge and begin our first current event assignment. For your current events assignment, you will find newspaper articles on political and economic events that take place on the national level of government. This means that you will look for articles that deal with events that affect the ENTIRE country.

You will turn in one current event for the next three weeks. Since we are focusing primarily on economics, two of your three current events must deal with an economic issue.

Economic issues to look for include housing prices, the value of United States currency, oil prices, trade agreements, and any article about the condition of the United States economy in general. The economy is a HUGE issue in this presidential race so you will find many articles on this topic. National issues to look for include any action taken by Congress, President Bush or the United States Supreme Court. Be careful should you choose a court issue to cover since each state has its own court system that includes a supreme court.

Our focus for this assignment is on our national government.

You will find articles that you need to write your current event on links that are included on my website. The Washington Post and The New York Times each have excellent coverage of national events. The Roanoke Times covers national events as well.

Be sure to find an article that has sufficient information for you to summarize. The shortest article you can find will be a quick read but you will not have much information to work with and, sadly, your grade will suffer!

When looking for an article, please refer to the worksheet we did together in class. I will not accept a letter to the editor, a commentary or an editorial for this assignment. Should you get confused and use one of these, you will get a 0 for this assignment. Welcome to 8th grade!

For each of the three current events:

- When reading your article, either highlight or underline important information that will help you write your summary. The original article will be turned in with your summary.

Paragraph 1- The Summary

- Write an original title for your summary. Your title is not underlined. You must remember to capitalize the first letter of each word.
- Identify the government office or branch that is taking action in this article. This should be written under your title.
 - Your summary is to be well written either by hand or typed with close attention paid to grammar, spelling and content. Remember to write analytically.
 - DO NOT copy passages from the original article unless you use quotation marks. Most of your summary should be written in your own words. Copied material will not be graded.
 - Include answers to the following questions in your summary:

1. Who is involved in the current event?

Identify the branch of government and the individual government officials who are involved in this event.

For court cases, identify the plaintiff and the defendant.

2. What happened?

3. Where did the event take place?

Remember, the event should take place in Washington DC since it is a national event.

4. When did the event occur?

5. Why did this event occur?

Identify the reason why the national government is taking action. What is our government hoping to accomplish by taking action?

Paragraph 2 The Analysis

- Write an analysis of the event.
 - For your analysis you will discuss the impact the event may have on our society. This discussion should include how our society may change as a result of this event. Support your ideas with evidence from the article and what you know about our government.

Arrive to civics class each Monday with your current event ready to turn in. This includes stapling the rubric to the original article and your summary/analysis.

Be prepared to discuss your article with the class.

ALERT!

****DO NOT USE AN EDITORIAL, COMMENTARY OR A LETTER TO THE EDITOR TO DO THIS ASSIGNMENT. THIS WILL RESULT IN A "0"****