



CURRENT EVENTS

Name: _____

Date: _____

Block: _____

Current events are an exciting and meaningful component of Social Studies, as it allows you to look at what is currently happening in the world and analyze the potential these events have at shaping our future.

You will be asked to pick any current event (occurred within the last four weeks) and present it to the class. During this presentation, you may choose to use any type of media to help in your presentation.

The focus of this presentation is for you to communicate to the class why this topic is important, and why we should care.

Title of Article: _____

Publication Source (*Time Magazine, CBC, etc.*): _____

Page # or Website URL: _____

Author: _____

Date of Publication (*must be within the last 4 weeks*) _____

DIRECTIONS

1. Type a three paragraph summary to your article following the format and criteria stated below:
 - a. Size 10-11 pt. font
 - b. Appropriate heading
 - c. Three paragraphs (refer to Checklist, on back page, for paragraph content guidelines)
 - d. Use complete sentences, proper grammar, and punctuation
 - e. Check for spelling and grammatical errors
 - f. You may **not** copy/paste parts of the article into your response. Your response should be in your own words!

2. Staple the three items in order:
 - a. Typed Current Event Response
 - b. Copy of Article
 - c. Current Event Worksheet/Rubric

Be sure to include details to the following questions (where applicable) in your summary response.

- a. **Who?** Who is involved? Who does/did the situation affect?

- b. **What?** What is happening? What did happen? What are the consequences? What is your position on this issue?

- c. **When?** When did or will this happen? When was this discovered?

- d. **Where?** Where did or will this happen?

- e. **Why?** Why did this happen or will it happen? Why is it important? Why does this interest you?

- f. **How?** How did or will it happen? How much does it cost? How many people does this affect? How does this situation affect you? How do you feel about this?

CURRENT EVENT CHECKLIST

(to be completed by student)

<u>Item</u>	<u>Yes/No?</u>
1. Completed <u>typed</u> response in the correct format.....	_____
2. Current Events Worksheet is complete and correct	_____
3. First Paragraph contains 5 "W's and 1 "H"	_____
4. Second Paragraph includes student's position on the issue	_____
5. Third Paragraph includes how issue affects youth, Canadians, the world	_____
6. Correct usage, mechanics, spelling, grammar, and punctuation	_____
7. Copy of article included.....	_____

Student Agreement: I have completed each of the above items.

Student Signature: _____

Category	4 Extending	3 Proficient	2 Developing	1 Emerging
Summary Content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information from credible source is clearly summarized. ▪ Includes <i>strong</i> supporting details addresses the who, what, where, when, why or how questions. 				
Personal Response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provides insightful gives personal response with strong thoughts and ideas ▪ Clearly explains how the issue affect youth, Canada, and/or world. 				
Conventions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Correct spelling, punctuation and grammar ▪ Contains well-constructed paragraphs ▪ Includes varied beginnings and rich and appropriate vocabulary. 				
Article <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ From relevant website or news source (ie magazine or paper). ▪ All the required information is cited clearly in document. 				
Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prepared to present – including questions for audience ▪ Maintained eye contact ▪ Used appropriate voice level ▪ Indicates clear understanding/knowledge of the article – responses to audience questions 				

Current Events Presentation Information

1. Who Presents and When?

- a. Every student must present a Current Events Report once throughout the course.
- b. Two students per day will present their reports. Sign-Up Sheets will be posted in the classroom and slots will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- c. Current Events is like a test – if you are absent on a day you are supposed to do your presentation, you must bring a note from home in order to not receive a zero.
- d. If you are unprepared to present on your assigned day without a valid excuse, you must present the next day. You will lose marks with each passing day that you do not do your presentation.

2. Presentation Format

Students will present their article in the following manner, using NOTES, (not reading their presentation word-for-word):

- a. Read title of article.
- b. Summarize what the article is about by mentioning the main points and giving 1-2 examples, if applicable. Be sure to explain any vocabulary, concepts, or issues that may be unfamiliar to your classmates, especially when they are crucial to understanding the main points of the article. This may require additional research on your part!
- c. Explain why you chose the article, if it is controversial and why and if it relates to your studies.
- d. Explain whether the reporter presented the information in a balanced way or not, what their opinion about the topic seems to be and why, and whether you agree or not with the author's opinion and why.
- e. Lead a discussion – ask the audience at least one question about the topic/issue in your article that will stimulate discussion (NOT as "yes" or "no" answer!)
- f. Selected audience members will ask questions of you. Other students (and teacher!) may also ask questions at this point.
- g. Selected audience members will give their constructive feedback.

3. Audience Participation

Every student in the class must have a turn asking a question and giving feedback as part of their participation mark. Also, all students' attentiveness will be marked: if you're not paying attention or being disrespectful during someone's presentation, you will lose participation marks.

- a. Two students will be responsible for asking at least one question of the presenter about their article, the topic/issues in general and/or the opinion of the author or presenter.
- b. Two other students will provide feedback: at least one positive feedback comment and one "for next time I would suggest" comment (see attached examples)

4. Assessment

You will be assessed according to the Rating Scale on the back of your assignment form. Please note that the main areas of assessment are: your clear organization of the information, your ability to assemble the important information from the article, your analysis, and finally, your public speaking skills.

CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM – EXAMPLES

“For the next time I would suggest...”

- Trying to choose a topic that is more controversial and/or relates to social studies
- Being aware to project your voice more
- Trying to speak more slowly and clearly
- Practicing your presentation more so you can read from your notes less
- Making sure you are familiar with all the details of your article so you can answer questions easily
- Making sure you have thought through the issues relating to your article so you can make a more thoughtful commentary
- Speaking with a bit more enthusiasm
- Organizing your notes more clearly so your presentation is clearer

POSITIVE FEEDBACK – EXAMPLES

- “I found your topic/article very interesting”
- “You spoke clearly/with volume (projected well)”
- “You made good eye contact with the audience”
- “I liked your introduction/‘hook’”
- “You answered questions with confidence”
- “You seemed comfortable speaking in front of everyone”
- “Your information was organized well/clearly”
- “You were very well-prepared”
- “I liked your choice of topic”
- “You showed interest and enthusiasm for your topic”
- “Overall, your presentation was very good”