



### Current Events Directions and Example

The objective of the ongoing current events assignment is for you to practice reading informational writing, to gain knowledge of events going on in our country and the world, to practice written and oral summarization, and to gain oral presentation skills, particularly to prepare them for Debate.

You will have a current events assignment roughly every other week. Assigned days can be found on the class website and on the paper schedule that will be sent home monthly. You will need to find a current events article in a newspaper, magazine or on-line. (Please be careful on-line, though. Some on-line entries tend to be more blurbs than articles and are often unreliable.) There are some suggested websites on our class website. Current events articles include news of history, politics, government, science, technology, 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 time. While sports and entertainment are an important part of popular culture, we *will not* be using them for current events assignments. Additionally, students should not choose articles that are works of fiction.

1. Choose an appropriate article.
2. Read the article. And then, read it again.
3. In **YOUR** words, briefly summarize the content of the article. **Four sentence minimum.** *You may not plagiarize* the writer's work. You

must use your own words; however, you *may* quote the writer by using proper punctuation

4. Now, write an analysis. This should answer some of the following questions:
  - What are the positions held by the people mentioned in the article?
  - How do you feel about this event/issue?
  - How does or how could this event affect you?
  - Can you detect any author bias within the article?

**Four sentence minimum.**

- Next, describe the impact of your event. This should answer one of the following questions:
  - Why is this event of significance? (Why should you or I care?)
  - Could this event be part of a larger issue?

**Three sentence minimum.**

5. Lastly, attach the article, a copy of the article, or a link (if submitting electronically) to your assignment.

On the day of your presentation, you should have already shared your written portion with Mrs. Kirk on Google Docs or sent it via email ([halley.kirk@canyonsdistrict.org](mailto:halley.kirk@canyonsdistrict.org)). If you prefer, you may bring in a printed copy. Be sure to have notified Mrs. Kirk *ahead of time* if you need to submit a handwritten assignment.

You will then have to present your current event to the class. Presentations are 2-3 minutes long and should contain the same information as what you have written. You may not bring their paper up and read it, but you may use it to help you with your presentation. You should to know the information well enough to speak without notes. If there is extra time, you'll be able to ask your classmates for clarifications, contributions, and contentions.

You will be graded on your written assignment *and* oral presentation. Good

oral presenters speak clearly, loudly, slowly and show knowledge of their article and give their opinion. I suggest you practice at home before giving your current event presentation in class.

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. The student would still present their current event on their assigned day, late assignments will not be accepted.

My first Current Events presentation is on September

\_\_\_\_\_.

## Current Events Written Product Example

### [“The Once Pristine Henderson Island is Now Covered with Plastic Waste”](#)

by Kim Bussing, DOGO News, June 21, 2017

**Summary:** An island in the south part of the Pacific Ocean, known as Henderson Island, has been named “one of the most polluted places on Earth”. This island, called Henderson Island, is 3,100 miles away from the nearest human settlement and does not have any human inhabitants. Henderson Island was previously known for its “remarkable biological diversity and untouched ecology.” Now, a researcher from the University of Tasmania has determined that the small island (14.4 square miles) has over 38 million pieces of waste, which is mostly plastic. Because humans don’t live on the island, it is believed that the trash is brought in by the South Pacific Gyre, which is a major ocean current. Much of the visible waste is related to fishing “like lines and nets, and single-use household items”, but researchers say that “over 68% of the junk is buried under the sand.” This trash is hurting the island’s wildlife and their habitat. It’s hard to know who to blame for all of the trash because it comes from all over the world, but the author believes we should all take responsibility for the mess and try to “pitch in by avoiding plastic altogether or reusing and recycling when that is not possible.”

**Analysis:** It makes me frustrated that remote areas like Henderson Island are being destroyed by pollution, especially because humans don’t even live on the island and it is all washing up from other places. According to the article, there are many areas in our oceans that where trash is piling up. The author clearly wants us to think before we through plastic in the trash, and I mostly agree with that.

**Impact:** We should all care about this issue, because it is an example of the larger problem: pollution. This trash ruins habitats and makes the beaches look terrible. Some beaches might have to close because it’s just not safe to visit anymore.