

## CURRENT EVENTS ASSIGNMENT



This semester you will submit FOUR Current Events Assignments (50 pts. each). The purpose of current events is to gain a greater understanding of how our government works “in the real world,” and to connect that to what you’ve learned from the textbook, lectures, etc., while you become familiar with our elected officials and what they do.

### HOW DO I COMPLETE THIS ASSIGNMENT?

1. Read the topic carefully and make sure you understand what is being asked
2. Begin scouting **news websites** or **print newspapers** for articles related to the assigned topic
3. Find **2-3 articles, read them**, and pick a final one after evaluating it to make sure it fits the topic
4. Print it, or cut it out NEATLY (if from a print newspaper) and glue it onto white computer paper
5. Re-read the article and HIGHLIGHT sections you will want to address in your assignment (if I see no highlighting I will assume you did not read the article)
6. Complete the typed assignment
7. Run spell-check
8. PROOFREAD yourself to eliminate grammatical/spelling errors
9. Print. If your printer fails, e-mail your assignment (AND the article) to [nferreiro@pylusd.org](mailto:nferreiro@pylusd.org)
10. Attach the article to the back of the written assignment
11. Turn into the basket on the due date. NO LATE WORK ACCEPTED.

You MUST complete your Current Events assignment using the form provided on my class blog: <http://mrsferreiro.edublogs.org/current>. Simply save the form to your computer or flash drive, or use it and save it to your own e-mail, type in the appropriate sections, and print. Do not change fonts or formats; simply fill in the required spaces.

You can open the Word form with most computers available on campus. Handwritten assignments, or assignments not completed directly on the form will NOT be accepted.

### ARTICLE TOPICS AND DUE DATES:

Article #1: Due \_\_\_\_\_

Find an article about political parties and/or special interest groups.

Article #2: Due \_\_\_\_\_

Find an article about a bill being considered, or processed through, the United States Congress. Keep in mind that articles about local bills, state bills, etc. are NOT valid; read the article carefully!

Article #3: Due \_\_\_\_\_

Find an article about the President’s activities; it must be something that we have covered in the unit on the Executive Branch.

Article #4 Due \_\_\_\_\_

Find an article about either:

- a) The Supreme Court of the United States (a case they are considering, for example); articles about a state's Supreme Court are NOT acceptable.
- b) A local case in which a person's civil liberties may have been violated (for example, someone claiming to have been searched without a warrant). these can be from any part of the country, but make sure to explain what amendment(s) are involved and decide whether the person's rights were violated or not).

### ***CAN I USE MY ARTICLE?***

- **YES**, if the article comes from:
  - **Any reputable NEWS website or newspaper** (CNN, MSNBC, Fox, LA Times, OC Register, NY Times, Washington Post, USA Today)
  - **Any reputable NEWS magazine** (U.S. News & World Report, Time, Newsweek)
- **NO**, if it comes from
  - **A non-news website** (Past examples have included political party websites, interest group websites, and message boards)
  - **A blog** (Unless you followed a link on a blog and read the article at an actual news site)
  - **An online dictionary/encyclopedia** (Examples include Encarta, Wikipedia, About.com)
  - **The opinion section of a newspaper or news website** (Meaning, the article is the opinion of the author and does not report actual facts; usually found in the Commentary, Opinion, Op/Ed sections).

### ***WHAT CAN GO WRONG WITH MY ASSIGNMENT?***

(Any of the following will be rejected and must be resubmitted within 24 hours of you receiving it, or you will not get credit).

- It is handwritten
- It was not completed on the required form, or formats have been modified
- The article has not been highlighted/underlined
- The article is off-topic (example: An article about a law in Oregon when the topic is Congress, i.e. the NATIONAL government). If in doubt, check with me first.
- The article comes from a non-news source (see above)
- The article is older than 1 month, unless cleared with me first.

You are required to complete all four Current Events assignments. If all four have been completed, the lowest grade will be dropped; if you failed to complete one of them, all grades (including zeros) will remain in place.