

**Jonathan Wilson-Thieroff**

**Current Events #1**

**September 16, 2014**

**A. World News Story Title:** Scotland Considers a Divorce

**B. World News Story Source of Information:** Star Tribune

**C. World News Story Summary:** On September 18, Scotland will vote to determine whether or not to become its own country and break away from the United Kingdom. Ever since Margaret Thatcher was prime minister, Scotland and England have had separate ideas. Some people want Scotland to be independent, for they have a strong economy to support their people, and they have different ideas from England. On the other hand, England doesn't want Scotland to become its own country because it would affect England's economy. Looking at the polls right now, it is more likely that Scotland will become a country, but only just.

**D. Reaction to World News Story:** I think that Scotland should become its own country, because if the Scots have different ideas than the English, they should become a country if they want to. As the article says, the Scots don't just want to have their own country for the sake of it, they want to have a country where they can make their own decisions on how to manage their own affairs. Some people think that Scotland won't survive without subsidies from the British government, but I think that it's their own risk to take. Even though Obama has made his opinion clear that he wants the United Kingdom to stay together, I think the Scots should decide for themselves.

**A. US News Story Title:** Minneapolis won't suspend youngest students

**B. US News Story Source of Information:** Star Tribune

**C. US News Story Summary:** The superintendent of the Minneapolis school district has banned teachers from suspending pre-kindergarteners, kindergarteners, and first graders. There had been a huge increase of suspensions last year for disruptive behavior, such as tearing things off walls, and throwing things. The suspensions usually affected minorities in kindergarten through fourth grade. When the ban was passed, some parents and teachers weren't happy because the ban then left teachers to deal with the difficult children. Other people think that this is a good first step, but more needs to happen to get these kids on the right track.

**D. Reaction to US News Story:**

I think that the kids should be suspended, but instead of getting sent home, they should stay in an office or a classroom with some books or worksheets to keep them occupied. I think that because sometimes the suspended child's family has no one at home to take care of them for the day. Then, a parent will have to take the day off work. If that family is poor, then that could affect their income and that would be important. Also, I agree with the superintendent that younger children shouldn't be suspended, because the first years of school are important, so the kids can get a good impression and be a better student.