6th Grade Current Events

In addition to studying Minnesota history and participating in reading and writing workshops in humanities, we will try to follow significant events taking place in our world. Sometimes, we will simply discuss a topic of recent importance and interest. In addition to this, you are required to complete 2 independent current events assignments each quarter.

CE Requirements

A. Find 2 Significant News Stories: You will find, read and complete a written assignment on two separate news stories twice each quarter. The stories can be from a hard copy newspaper, magazine, or an on-line news source. You do not turn in the actual articles, just your write-ups. These articles need to fit the following categories:
   - Article 1: World News (Something happening outside the United States)
   - Article 2: US News (Something happening inside of the United States)

B. Articles should be recent, and they should be of significant news value. Stay away from sporting event reports, stories from the world of entertainment, routine "man arrested for..." or accident stories, and others that will not allow you to express a thoughtful opinion. Ask me ahead of time if you wonder about whether a story is appropriate. In addition, you cannot do a current event on an article that you are also required to read for class (You will be reading news articles in class!).

Grading

A. Each assignment is worth 20 points and needs to include the following (see template on next page):

1. **Heading:** A typed heading with your name, class period, date, title of articles and sources (this is not worth any points, but you will lose 3 points if you do not include all of this information).

2. **Summary:** A typed summary (focus on main ideas) of the event in your own words, no longer than 5-7 sentences (paragraph format). It is crucial that you do not cut and paste from your sources! You need to learn how to paraphrase information that has been published by others, and we will spend time this year learning how to do this. I do not want more than a ½ page summary, but I need enough information to let me know that you truly understood the article (10 points; 5 per article).

3. **Personal Reaction:** A typed personal reaction to the article, no longer than ½ page. To be honest, I am more interested in your reaction than your summary. This is where you share your thoughts, feelings and opinions about the article you read. (10 points; 5 per article).

4. **Spelling/Grammar/Punctuation:** These conventions matter! I expect your work to be grammatically clean and to contain accurate word use and spelling. To this end, you will lose one point for every 10 errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation.

B. You are expected to turn your current events in on or before the start of class on the due date. As per my late work policy, you will lose 10% of your assignment value for each late class period up to two weeks late. I will not accept work beyond two weeks after the due date.

Quarter One Current Events Due Dates

- Set one: Friday, 9/29
- Set two: Thursday, 10/26