

**Honors Government  
Summer Project  
Current Events Application**

**Rationale**

The purpose of the Honors Government summer assignment is to assess levels of prior knowledge in order to guide and direct classroom instruction in a manner that maximizes student learning. Additionally, this assignment encourages the development of skills critical to active citizenship, such as analytical reading, writing, and thinking processes. The assignment promotes a successful transition from the facts of U.S. History to the application of said facts as they relate to government processes. This assignment will lay the foundation for the course required research project.

**Skills and Processes Outcomes**

- 6.G.3.a Students will summarize the main points of an issue explaining different viewpoints.
- 6.G.3.b Students will make a decision based on the analysis of issues and evaluate the consequences of these decisions.
- 6.G.3.c Students will identify and formulate a position on a course of action or an issue.

**Procedure**

1. You must read, summarize, and analyze three news articles from reliable sources, such as *TIME*, *Newsweek*, *The Baltimore Sun*, *Wall Street Journal*, etc. Internet newspapers may be used; however, if you are not sure if the article is reputable, do not use it! Articles from the Associated Press are reputable.

One article must be about a current event on economics. The second article must be focused on a current event involving foreign affairs. The third article must be focused on a current event involving politics. **The length of these articles should provide a sufficient amount of information for the assignment to be completed.**

2. **For each article**, a suggested length would be a two-page paper (Times New Roman, 12 pt font, double spaced, 1.5 inch margins) that follows the following format:
  - ◆ Summary: (suggested length - a half page) Summarize the main points (who, what, where, when, why, how) of the article.
  - ◆ Analysis: (suggested length - a half page) How does the event affect rights or lives of citizens? Please give examples to support your response.
  - ◆ Evaluation: (suggested length - a half page) Why is this event important to know about? Please give examples to support your response.
  - ◆ Opinion: (suggested length - a half page) What do you think about the current event? How does the event affect you? Your opinion must be based on prior knowledge and what you have read. Use government vocabulary and knowledge principles of democracy to support your response.

**In a binder:**

1. Current Event #1
2. Original/Photocopy of article
3. Current Event #2
4. Original/Photocopy of article
5. Current Event #3
6. Original/Photocopy of article

\*You will be held accountable for the current events for the entire semester. It will show up again, in your tests, research paper, class discussions, and/or follow-up assignments.

### **Rubric/Grading**

This project is considered a summative assignment. Each paper will be graded according to the rubric at the end the document.

### **Due Date**

1. This binder is due on the ***first*** day of school, regardless of the semester in which you take the class. If you have Government second semester, you still need to turn in your project on the first day of school. Late current events binders will be penalized in accordance with CCPS grading policy. Assignments will not be accepted via e-mail. **Students who transfer into the class in the summer or within the first ten days of the marking period will be responsible for the assignment.**

### **Academic Integrity**

Academic Integrity is at the heart of a sound academic policy. The integrity of a school course and program depend on the honest completion of student work. Cheating and/or plagiarism violate the most basic understanding between a student and a teacher—that a student's work is his/her own.

- Cheating occurs when a student:
  - copies someone else's work and/or violates copyright.
  - allows someone else to copy his/her work.
  - allows someone to complete his/her work.
- If a student is caught cheating, he/she will:
  - fail the assignment without opportunity to redo the assignment.
  - be referred for disciplinary action.

Plagiarism is the representation of someone else's ideas, statements, or words as one's own without giving credit. Any material used in a completed assignment that includes the words, ideas, and statements from a traditional or electronic source must be documented using a standard format such as MLA or APA. This includes print, interviews, television shows, movies, computer media, and Internet sources.

- Students found to have plagiarized may:
  - receive additional counseling and instruction on how to avoid plagiarism.
  - be referred for disciplinary action depending on the depth of plagiarism.
  - fail the assignment or be required to redo the assignment for reduced credit.
- Students found to have plagiarized will:
  - have their parents/guardians notified of acts of plagiarism.

There is no excuse for cheating or plagiarism. If you are unclear about what constitutes cheating and plagiarism, please ask.

### Current Events Rubric

| CATEGORY                   | 2 (Exceeds Expectation)   | 1 (Minimum Expectations)  | 0 (Needs Improvement)  |
|----------------------------|---|---|--|
| <b>Summary</b>             | Summary of article is clear, complete, and accurate. All of the main points are addressed.  | Summary of article is clear, complete, and accurate.  | Summary of the article is unclear, incomplete, or inaccurate.                |
| <b>Analysis</b>            | Analysis of how the event affects rights or lives of citizens is clear and complete. Multiple valid examples are applied and extended to support the response.  | Analysis of how the event affects rights or lives of citizens is clear and complete. Valid examples are used to support the response. | Analysis of how the event affects rights or lives of citizens lacks clarity. |
| <b>Evaluation</b>          | Evaluation of importance of the event is clear and complete. Multiple valid examples are applied and extended to support the response.  | Evaluation of importance of the event is clear and complete. Valid examples are used to support the response.                         | Evaluation of the importance of the event lacks clarity.                     |
| <b>Opinion</b>             | Opinion of the current event is clear and complete. Student explains their opinion of the event and how the event affects them, using prior knowledge, information from article, government vocabulary, and knowledge of principles of democracy. | Opinion of the current event is clear.  | Opinion of the current event is incomplete.                                  |
| <b>Organization/Length</b> | All the required items are included in a binder. Binder is presented in a neat and organized fashion. Student incorporates additional organizations methods (table of contents, page numbers).  | All the required items are included in a binder. Binder is presented in a neat and organized fashion.                                 | The binder and all required materials are missing or not included.           |

### Grading Scale:

| Points | Grade | Points | Grade |
|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| 10     | 100   | 5      | 70    |
| 9      | 94    | 4      | 64    |
| 8      | 88    | 3      | 58    |
| 7      | 82    | 2      | 52    |
| 6      | 76    | 1      | 46    |