

Current Events Analysis

Objective: To encourage students to develop the habit of *reading* news content rather than watching the news. Reading news content will provide exposure to broader content information and deeper analysis, improve reading skills and vocabulary, and enable the student to express their own opinions. *Watching the news is not bad, but reading the news is better.*

Sources: Students may choose news articles from the following publications: Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Washington Post, The American Conservative, New Republic, The Atlantic, National Review, The Nation, Truthdig, Texas Observer, The Weekly Standard, Reason, The American Spectator, American Greatness, The Federalist, Vox, and Crooked. Students should have access to most of these publications for free online (I do not expect you to purchase articles, but you certainly can buy a copy of Reason or The Atlantic if you have the desire).

Choices: Students are *required* to choose a new publication for each Current Events Analysis. Students are also encouraged to briefly research the history of these publications (Wikipedia should provide a paragraph-length history). If you refuse to read articles that may challenge your political views then definitely research the publications beforehand so you don't accidentally read a "conservative" or "liberal" article! Again, it is a requirement to choose a new publication for each assignment and I encourage you to explore publications from across the political spectrum.

Assignment: Students are required to select a news article that pertains to "U.S. government and politics", which could include anything dealing with domestic policy, foreign policy, political campaigns, etc.

- 1) You do NOT need to turn in a copy of the article with the summary if the article was obtained online. However, you MUST include the source, title, author, date, and URL at the TOP of the page. The first thing I should read (after the heading and assignment title....) is what article you selected.
- 2) Summarize the content/argument in ONE paragraph (4-6 sentences in length).
- 3) Select and define two words or phrases that you did not know or do not ordinarily use.
- 4) Identify and explain the possible political perspective or bias of the author. Does the author's personal bias detract from their argument? (1-2 sentences in length)
- 5) Expand upon, refute, or qualify the author's argument. Do you agree? Disagree? What do you think? (4-6 sentences in length)

Example: This is a shortened version of what you will submit to me.

Student Name
Professor Henry
Government 2305
Date

Current Events Analysis #1

- 1) *National Review*, "America's Selective Libertarianism," Jonah Goldberg
<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/385446/americas-selective-libertarianism-jonah-goldberg>
- 2) Some people are claiming that libertarianism is on the rise within American politics, and that young people are particularly libertarian. However, while it is true that young people seem to be libertarian on social issues they are actually quite liberal on economic issues. Young people favor "bigger government" by wide margins.
- 3) Millennial: The generation born from the early 1980s to the early 2000s.
- 4) The author indicates multiple times that they are sympathetic to libertarianism, but this does not detract from their argument and may actually strengthen it because...
- 5) I agree that young people seem to be attracted to aspects of libertarianism. I myself have somewhat libertarian views on issues such as...