

## Current Events Assignment 2014-15

Throughout the school year students will be creating news assignments mostly based on world and national stories. In the past, students were expected to clip articles from actual newspapers and create folders of these articles with their opinions, or to work individually to complete assignments twice a month. This year, the assignment will encourage you to be creative, innovative, and think about designing. Collaboration and critical thinking skills will also be used, and I hope you will have fun while you are learning.

1. Each assignment must include the following themes for reporting on the news. One world news story; one national news story; and one sports or arts story will be required for each project.

a. Stories should be based on politics, economics/finance, social issues, or technology when it relates to the world and national stories. Crimes, weather reports, births, deaths, and stories of this nature are not allowed. **Mr. Klingman must approve all stories and sources before each group begins creating the project.**

b. Stories chosen by each group must be thoroughly reported.

2. Groups will be made up of three students. Each member of the group is equally responsible for the completed assignment. You should work together to create the final product, and work out any differences you may have. If there are problems within your group, please discuss the issue with Mr. Klingman as soon as a question arises. Students, who are absent on days when the group is working in class, are expected to find out what was worked on and make contributions to the finished work. The group members attending class will be able to tell an absent member what he/she needs to do to catch up.

3. Your group is encouraged to create an online newspaper or magazine. Do not actually create it online, but give it the appearance of being online. **However, please feel to use your creative genius to design your own look.** Making it appealing to the reader is very important, or people will not want to read it. You may incorporate video into your assignment, **but this is not a video newscast.**

4. Groups must decide the format they will use in reporting the news and the tools to be used to complete the tasks. You are encouraged to use Pages, but are not restricted to this application. Please refer to the bottom of Mr. Klingman's podcast page for ideas on creating your page, or see Mr. Klingman during tutorial to see examples of past work.

5. How to start the assignment.

- a. Choose a group. Each group must have three members.
- b. Discuss the types of events/stories that have occurred or are occurring just before or during the time period for this assignment.
- c. Search for stories on the Internet from reliable news sources.

You may use newspapers, magazines, or other forms of media from around the world. Google News is not a source, but a specific newspaper or magazine from Google News is permitted. So, if you find a New York Times article by searching through Google News that is permitted. **You may use multiple sources to help you understand the story, AND you must provide a link to all sources used online. Information taken from news sources during this part of the assignment, including pictures/images/videos do not need to be included in MLA format since they are part of the link. If you are getting information from outside of the link, it MUST be cited using MLA. (See Below sections on including a works cited)**

d. Once your group has decided on the stories to include in the assignment you must decide how to create and design these stories into a presentable format. You will present your news assignment in class on the due date, and should be prepared to discuss each story and answer questions from the class. **Mr. Klingman must approve all stories chosen by each group.**

6. Creativity and Design will play major roles in your grade for this assignment.

a. When designing your newspaper/magazine the group must plan out how it will look. It would be a good idea to look at an actual newspaper or magazine whether print or online for ideas. What is the name of your newspaper? Did you include headlines? Please notice that magazines and newspapers have pictures, graphics, and other types of stories or advertisements located on different parts of the pages. You should have the same types of "side stories/advertisements" as well.

**Your stories must be written in your own words and not plagiarized.**

b. Whatever format you choose to use in creating the assignment is up to your group. The stories should be written factually and without bias. Your opinions of the stories will be expected in class on the day of the presentations. (See Grading Section)

c. There must be a date included at the beginning of each assignment for any format used by the group. The name of the reporter for each story (one of you) should also be identified either at the start or end of the report.

7. One day each week will be devoted to working on this project in class. Therefore, you should not need to spend time outside of class completing the project. Working together during tutorial or in the mornings before school is also an option. Since Mr. Klingman will observe each group working on the assignment, he will be able to evaluate the contributions of each student.

8. Grading-Will be worth 100 points and based on the overall design and creation of the assignment and thoroughness of each story. **A works cited using MLA form must be included somewhere (preferably at the end of the project) in your presentation, and it should not be a distraction to the reader based on where it is placed. You should also include the links for stories (mentioned in the “How to Start” sections) in the area of your works cited.** Is your assignment eye catching for the reader? Each group will present in class by orally explaining the stories, **and** after reporting each group must explain to the class the positive and negative effects of the world and national reports. So, you must discuss your opinion of the main news assignment and why it is your opinion.

Creativity and Design-50pts

Thoroughness of Completed Task-20pts

In Class Presentation-20pts

MLA Works Cited 10pts