

## **CURRENT EVENTS ASSIGNMENT for U.S. History: "Today's News is Tomorrow's History"**

**Introduction:** The world around us is changing each and every day and those decisions greatly affect our lives. It is important for us to be aware of the events that are going on around us locally and nationally. You are responsible this semester for completing **4 current event articles** due on the dates listed below. You are restricted to articles that deal with the following themes related to the United States. Select the theme that most interests you, as you will be following this theme throughout the semester to better understand historical continuities and change over time.

- **Economic Confidence:** class, wages/salaries, labor, unions, energy, technology, the environment, the government's role in regulation, stock markets, trade, depression/recession
- **Racial Identity:** civil rights, diversity, tolerance, minority rights, experiences of racial minorities, immigration, nationalism
- **Political Legitimacy:** presidential power, Supreme Court, Congressional action, foreign policy, war and diplomacy, party politics, protest, elections and voting
- **Gender and Sexual Equality:** feminism, LGBTQ?, religion, family values

**Discussions:** To further develop your ability to verbally communicate historical information, you will be required to present an article to the class from time to time. When current event articles are due, random students will be selected that week to present their respective article.

### **Due Dates for Current Event Articles**

Monday September 30 - Article #1 Due	Monday November 18 - Article #3 Due
Monday October 21 - Article #2 Due	Monday December 16 - Article #4 Due

**Written Response:** Digital submission of each article is strongly suggested but not required. For the article you choose, you should write or type your summary in the following format:

- **Article Title (2):** Write the title at the top of your page.
- **Summary (5):** Write a summary paragraph, *in your own words*, about the article. It needs to be at least SIX to EIGHT SENTENCES LONG. You can't copy verbatim from the article. Doing so will result in a grade of "0." Only two quotes may be used in your summary.
- **Significance (5):** Write at least 3-4 sentences discussing why you chose the article *and* how it is important to society. Think about who this event impacts and how. Explain why it is significant or provide your opinion about the topic.
- **Digital Literacy (5)** Using the critical reading skills gained from John Green's *Crash Course: Navigating Digital Information*, assess the accuracy and reliability of your article. Write a minimum five sentence summary of the article's reliability based on your research.
- **Three Questions (5):** You will need to write (3) relevant questions about the article (these are questions you would like answered or questions that you could ask students in the class. These questions must be open ended questions, that allow multiple perspectives and invite intelligent discussion
- **Reference (3):** Cite the article and include the following: Title article; author; source (where you got it from); date retrieved or published. (For digital submission include a hyperlink to any online articles in the "Reference" section of your write up. For printed submission, you must attach a copy of the article with your summary. (I only need the first page or a section of the article)).

\*The assignment will be evaluated on a 25-point scale pulled from the above components. (point values in parenthesis). A sample write up is available on the class website.