**Current Events Article Summary**

**Ms. Spear**

Each week you are required to find an article on a world, national or local news story and write a summary of it. It is due every week and is worth 20 points. You will be assigned a day. For example, your article may be due every Tuesday.

**Step 1:** Find an article. You can use the newspaper from class or a website from the approved list. Each week Ms. Spear will specify if it should be world, national, local news, or anything of your choosing. The article should be no more than 2 days old when you hand it in. The article must be at least 3 paragraphs long.

**Step 2:** Cut out or print the article. Be careful! Many articles are continued onto another page. If you print one from the internet, you need to include the last page even if it is blank.

**Step 3:** Read the article! (The whole thing!)

**Step 4:** Write a one page summary of the article. Make sure you answer the following questions: Who is your article about? What happens in your article? When does this take place? (Include the month, day and year) Where does it take place? Why and/or how does it take place?

**Step 5:** Neatly staple your article to your summary and bring it to class.

**Step 6:** Share your article with the class and show us on the map where it takes place.

**Grading:** Your current events assignment will be graded using the following criteria:

5 points for an appropriate article

2 points for answering **Who**: (Who does this article focus on?).

5 points for answering **What**: (What does this article talk about? What is the issue at hand?).

1 point for answering **Where**: (Where does this article take place? A specific country, region, state, city?).

1 point for answering **When**: (When was this article written? When did the events in this article take place?).

1 point for answering **Why/How**: (Why was this written? How/why did this story become important?).

4 points for **presenting** to the class

1 point for **showing** us on the map where it takes place.

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**We don’t get a newspaper at home and do not have internet access.**

Then you need to set up a time with me, once a week, before or after school or during lunch, when you can either use a school computer or the classroom newspaper.

**Is this a world, national or local news article?**

It is a world news article if it takes place in another country or is about a worldwide issue such as the bird flu.

A national article takes place in the United States or is about an American issue such as the Presidential election.

A local article takes place in Michigan.

**My printer wouldn’t print.**  
You will lose 5 points without the article attached to your summary. If come see me before or after school, I will help you find the article and print it here at school.

**I can’t find the date.**Use the date of the newspaper or the date of when you printed it. Be sure to include the month, day, & year.

**I cannot find the Why/How question for this article.**  
If Why/How is not answered in your article, (such as in an article on the bird flu) you may simply write, “Why and How are not answered in this article.” This tells me that you did not forget to answer these questions so if you do not write this statement, you will lose 1 point.

**Does my summary have to be typed?**  
I would prefer that, however, you may hand-write your summary. Be sure to use your neatest handwriting.

**What should I say when I present to the class?**  
You can start by reading us your summary. You can add details that you may not have included in your written work. Be prepared to answer questions and tell us what you think about your article.

**I forgot today was my due date. Do I still have to do it?**  
Yes! I will accept late article summaries however your grade will be a 50%. When doing a late assignment, remember to use a current news article. (Don’t try to find an old article from the day it was due.)

You should use the following websites. Any other websites must be approved by me.

CNN  
MSN  
USA Today  
The Wall Street Journal  
The Macomb Daily  
The Detroit Free Press

\*\* If you wish to use a local newspaper, it should be fine as long as you run it by me.

1. Capital Punishment 2. Euthanasia 3. Eugenics 4. Genetic Engineering 5. Pro-Choice vs. Pro-Life

Modules: 1. Censorship 2. Prayer in Schools 3. Creationism vs. Evolution 4. Gun Control

Modules: 1. Racial Profiling 2. Affirmative Action

Modules: 1. Immigration 2. National Language 3. Drug Legalization

Modules: 1. Nuclear Proliferation 2. Global Warming 3. The War on Terror