Current Events Project

The examination of current events is an important component of Social Studies 10. It is beneficial to study the past in order to gain background information to help understand the present, but it is also important to look at modern issues and conflicts. During this project, you will take an in-depth look at a current issue that you find interesting or meaningful. After you select a topic, you will track that subject for an extended period of time and look for newspaper or magazine articles to analyze.

CHOOSE A TOPIC. It must be broad enough that you will be able to find up-to-date information for at least five weeks. Below are some suggestions:

- an international conflict such as the Israeli-Arab struggle, the aftermath of the war in Iraq, or the civil war in the Congo
- an important global issue such as AIDS or terrorism
- an important medical issue such as cloning or new cancer treatments
- an important environmental issue such as global warming & KGHM
- an important social issue such as drug abuse or racism
- a political controversy such as the gun-control or euthanasia

WEEK 1: Choose your topic. Write a brief introduction explaining why you selected your topic and give a little background information. At this point, you MUST copy the URL for the article into a Google document. Also, write a minimum of 2 wonder/driving questions about the topic. These questions should be formed using WHY, HOW or WHAT IF.

WEEK 2-5: Each week, find one relevant article that is connected to your topic as you attempt to answer your wonder/driving questions. Your article must be dated from that particular week; I want you to follow your topic and watch it evolve, rather than gather five articles all written at approximately the same time.

Weekly INSTRUCTIONS: COPY the URL for each article into a Google document- include author, name of the website/news source and the date that the article was written. Write a brief summary of each article (3 sentences maximum or a point form "who, what where, when, why" format) and in 1-2 sentences share your opinion about the article.

Presentation of learning ASSIGNMENT: After you have collected and completed work for five weeks, you are ready to demonstrate what you have learned. Create an assignment of your choice (i.e. infographic, essay that
includes visuals, video) that accurately displays the insight gained – this assignment should be full of information you have collect throughout. For this portion of the assignment, I want you to reflect on the issue you chose. What did you learn? Are your wonder/driving questions answered? Explain why or why not. Did your opinion change throughout the project?

**Check List:**

___ 5 weeks of articles, summary, opinion response and 2 wonder/driving questions.

___ Your chosen assignment displaying insight gained

___ Proper citation of sources using MLA **

**EVALUATION:** Please circle the mark you think you have earned. I will consider this when I evaluate your project.

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<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>15</th>
<th>20</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Content:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- wonder quest. intro - articles &amp; response</td>
<td>Assignment is incomplete. Criteria has not been met and assignment is late</td>
<td>Minimal investigation has been done. It is incomplete. Assignment may have been late</td>
<td>Information is complete, but with limited insight or thought.</td>
<td>Information is well done. All relevant info is presented with insight and deeper cognitive thought.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Presentation of learning - display of insight gained</strong></td>
<td>Criteria has not been met. The reader is left wondering unsure of the overall purpose of this project.</td>
<td>Criteria has not been met. Wonder questions are missing or not answered. Learning is hard to see.</td>
<td>Criteria has been met. An attempt at answering your wonder questions was made in your final product.</td>
<td>Outstanding job. Your project displays clear answers to your wonder questions.</td>
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<td><strong>Productive investigation - reflection of your weekly work ethic, question development, learning, etc.</strong></td>
<td>There has been minimal effort put into this project</td>
<td>Some details show a little effort</td>
<td>There has been a solid effort put into this project.</td>
<td>You have knocked yourself out! The effort toward the production of this project has few rivals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Editing</strong></td>
<td>Careless editing for final revision. Several grammatical and spelling errors</td>
<td>Not bad... but some errors have slipped past any editing that occurred.</td>
<td>Grammatical errors are hard to find. Editing is solid.</td>
<td>It's pretty much perfect!!</td>
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**Total:**

/80

**YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO PRESENT YOUR FINDINGS TO YOUR CLASSMATES IN SMALL GROUPS.** At that time, you will be required to provide both a self-evaluation as well as a peer evaluation of the process.