Current Events
Directions and Example

The objective of the ongoing current events assignment is for students to practice reading informational writing, to gain knowledge of events going on in our country and the world, to practice written and oral summarization, and to gain oral presentation skills.

Students will have a current events assignment every other week. Assigned days can be found on the class calendar. Students will need to find a current events article in a newspaper, magazine or on-line. (Please be careful on-line, though. Some on-line entries tend to be more blurbs than articles.) Current events articles include news of politics, government, sports, entertainment and news from other countries. Students are encouraged to do a large variety of current events. Students may not do the same type of article every week. Students should not choose articles that are works of fiction or simply gossip.

- Choose an appropriate article. Articles should not be too short. An article with just a few paragraphs, an internet blurb, or the back page weather report with just pictures and temperatures are all considered inappropriate for this assignment.
- Read the article.
- Write a summary of the article. Summaries should be at least one good paragraph, but not longer than 1/3 the length of the original article.
- Write one good paragraph of your opinion of the event or article. You may write if you agree or disagree with the event, possible outcomes of the event, or any other opinion you have regarding the article. I don’t want another paragraph of summary.
- Attach the article or a copy of the article to the writing assignment.

Students will then have to present their current event to the class. Presentations are 2-3 minutes long and should contain the same information as the writing. Students may not bring their paper up and read it. They need to know the information well enough to speak without notes. If extra time, students can take questions from the audience. Students will be graded on their written assignment and their oral presentation. Good oral presenters speak clearly, loudly, slowly and show knowledge of their article and give their opinion. I suggest students practice at home before giving their current event presentation in class.

Current events are not accepted late. Students are responsible for knowing when their turn is and being ready on said date. We have to do three current events
per day and do not have time to add more presentations from those students who forgot on their original day. The only time a current event will be accepted late is when a student is absent. The absent student must then give his/her presentation on the first day he/she returns.

It is perfectly acceptable to do current events a few days early, maybe even the preceding weekend, in order to avoid rushing through the assignment the night before. The student would still present their current event on their assigned day.

My current events day is every other _____________,

starting on September _________.

Current Events Written Product Example

Gina Grgich
8/3/2004

Current Events

“Spacewalking Astronauts Repair Station”
http://www.cnn.com, 8/3/04

The two astronauts on the international space station left the station Tuesday to do some outside repairs. The two astronauts, Russian Gennady Padalka and American Mike Fincke left the space station empty while they were outside. Usually a third person is on the station, but since the Columbia disaster there has been only two people on the space station. The men installed laser reflectors and antennas to get ready for a cargo ship that will be coming next year. They also changed some science experiments and disconnected a TV camera’s electrical cable. At one point, communication was lost between the men and Earth. A NASA official said a main U.S. radio link had been turned off by flight controllers, but communication was soon restored through Russian ground stations.

I think it is interesting to hear what astronauts are doing out in space. I hope that a third person should be at the I.S.S., though. I do not think it is safe for the two men to be out in space, with no one to help them. I like to see that the United States and Russia are working together. If all the countries of the world worked together, the space station would be better and we could advance the technologies faster.