

AP US Government and Politics
Current Event-Explained

In addition to regular reading and work, you will have to complete a current event, each week, to be turned in on Mondays. You need to find, read and respond to an article regarding a political or legal issue in the United States. In writing your response, you should link the article in some way to the particular topic (unit) that we are studying in class. The article must be from a PRINT MEDIA source, and must be at least 500 words. (Don't spend time counting-- this is to get you to understand that it is not simply a one paragraph news--blurb). These articles can be news stories, opinion pieces, longer investigations or editorial columns.

For our purposes here, Print Media includes newspapers, magazines, or scholarly journals. Things like-- Time, US News, The Economist, Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Arizona Republic, Washington Times, The Atlantic, Washington Post, etc. These may be accessed online or as paper copies. Print Media DOES NOT include NPR transcripts online, Fox News online, CNN.com, etc. In other words, it should be from sources whose main focus is printed matter, not broadcast journalism.

Each is worth 20 points. The lowest score from each quarter will be dropped. A Sample Rubric is on the reverse side of this sheet.

Your response should include:

- Name and Date at the Top of the page
- The Author, Title, Source, Date.
- A short summary of the article (2 or 3 sentences)
- Your response to the details of the article.
- Your analysis may include answers to questions like--

What are the main issues brought forth?

What policy is being discussed?

How does this relate to what is taking place in government currently?

Historically?

What point is the author trying to make?

Is there a clear bias? How do you see it?

What do you think of the points that the author made?

In a column-- does the author stretch the truth?

What point are they trying to make?

How does this tie into what we are studying?

Example

Jane Doe

February 22, 2019.

Ackerman, Andres and Byron Tau. "McCain, Graham Say They Will Back Tillerson's Nomination for State," Wall Street Journal, 1.22.17.

This article explains how Senators John McCain and Lindsay Graham will support the nomination of Rex Tillerson for Secretary of State. This comes after weeks of speculation that his ties to the Russian government would lead these senators to quash his nomination. (END OF SUMMARY)

The issue calls into question not simply the direct nature of Trump's cabinet nominations, but also whether Republicans will actually do anything to stop the President's agenda. In this instance, both Senator's had expressed some doubts over the Exxon executives ability to look for U.S. interests in the world, but are seemingly willing to set these aside for the purposes of party unity. If this is

You should continue writing your response so that you fully analyze the details of the article, as well as analyze how this is an example civil liberties and/or civil rights in this country.

Name _____ Pd _____ Date _____

Current Events Analysis Rubric

<u>Completion</u> On time, Typed, Author, Title, Source , Date	5				1
<u>Summary</u> Short explanation of the article. Student is able to explain the gist of the article without simply repeating everything that the article discusses.	5	4	3	2	1
<u>Analysis</u> Student analyzes the article, concentrating on examining what the author said and how they said it, rather than simply repeating the facts of the article. Student works to break apart the major ideas, showing an understanding of the article AND shows how the pieces fit together. Clearly recognizes opinion and bias, and comments on how that fits the overall tone of the article.	5	4	3	2	1
<u>Link to Current Topic in Class</u> Student provides evidence that the issues or topics in the article relate to discussions we have been having in class regarding....(Topic we are working on)	5	4	3	2	1

Score /20

Comments: