

## Social Studies Current Events

One reason to study world history is because it helps us to understand the events of today. In turn, a knowledge and interest in present-day world events can generate a greater interest and appreciation for history. As a result, you will be expected to stay apprised of the major world news stories happening throughout the year.

### Weekly Assignment

- 🌐 Every Monday that we meet as a class (unless otherwise noted by me), one person in the class will have identified and summarized **three (3)** current<sup>1</sup> major<sup>2</sup> world<sup>3</sup> news stories from the previous week. This will be done in class as a mini-presentation. We will then discuss the stories for a few minutes. I may ask everyone to write a reaction to the stories in the Current Events section of their portfolios. Also be prepared for a weekly current event quiz on major stories in the news.

### For the Person Presenting

- 🌐 The news stories should be selected from print or electronic<sup>4</sup> news.
- 🌐 The **source** and **date** of each article must be noted at the top of the assignment. In addition, you **must** attach copies of the articles to your assignment.
- 🌐 You should summarize the major information of each news story by listing and identifying the **5 W's** (who, what, where, when, and why) **in your own words**. In addition, you must include 2-3 sentences giving your own thoughts, reactions, analysis, or opinions about the news event. See example below:

**Source:** *Seattle Times*

**Date:** *September 23, 2004*

**Who:** *The Taiwan Minister of Defense, Tang Fei*

**What:** *Concerned by the holding of a Chinese military drill off the coast of Taiwan*

**Where:** *310 miles north of Taiwan*

**When:** *Monday, September 23, 2004*

**Why:** *These drills might be dangerous to Taiwan, or China may be preparing an attack on Taiwan.*

**My reaction:** *I am concerned that if a military conflict erupts between Taiwan and China, the US will be called in to defend Taiwan. China has a huge population, strong military, and nuclear capabilities. This could lead to a long, drawn-out war costing huge number of lives.*

- 🌐 This assignment should be typed and proofread.

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<sup>1</sup> Current news is defined as having taken place in the last week (since the previous Monday).

<sup>2</sup> A major news story is something that would have been in the headlines/front pages that week (or perhaps, that *should* have been).

<sup>3</sup> World news focuses on people and events outside of the United States, though can still involve the US.

<sup>4</sup> Some good Internet news sources include: [cnn.com](http://cnn.com); [abcnews.go.com](http://abcnews.go.com); [msnbc.com/news](http://msnbc.com/news); [seattletimes.nwsourc.com](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com); [nytimes.com](http://nytimes.com); [christiansciencemonitor.com](http://christiansciencemonitor.com)