

Contemporary Issues Article Summary

Each week you are required to find an article on world, national, or local news and write a summary of it. It is due every _____ and is worth 20 points.

Step 1: Find an article. The article types you choose should be of some significance to the general public. They can be articles about important local issues, state-wide news, national, or international news. This is obviously your opinion and you should use your best judgment when choosing an article. Failure to choose appropriate topics will result in a loss of points. If you have any doubts about the quality of an article, consult with me before the due date. You can use a regional newspaper or a website from the approved list. 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 make sure you have the entire article.

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

Step 4: Write a one page summary of the article. This should be written in your own words and should not be copied word-for-word from 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 month, day, and year)
- ✓ Where does it take place? (include city, country & continent)
- ✓ Why and/or how does it take place?
- ✓ Reaction: What did you think of the article and the issues presented in the article?

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 appropriate article
- 2 points for answering Who
- 3 points for answering What
- 1 point for answering Where
- 1 point for answering When
- 1 point for answering Why/How
- 3 points for your reaction to the article
- 3 points for presenting to class
- 1 point for showing us on the map where it takes place

Websites: These are the websites that we will use to gather news. These are the only websites you should use while in class or looking for an article for your weekly summary. If you don't see it listed below, it is not an appropriate website!

- Argus Leader <http://www.argusleader.com/>
- Rapid City Journal <http://rapidcityjournal.com/>
- Keloland <http://www.keloland.com/>
- MSN <http://www.msn.com/>
- USA Today <http://www.usatoday.com/>
- CNN <http://www.cnn.com/>
- FOX News <http://www.foxnews.com/>
- Wall Street Journal <http://online.wsj.com/home-page>
- NY Times <http://www.nytimes.com/>

Frequently Asked Questions/Concerns:

- *We don't get a newspaper at home and do not have internet access.*
 - Then you need to set up a time at school, where you have internet access, to complete this assignment.
- *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 news article takes place in the United States or is about an American issue such as the presidential election.
 - A local article takes place in South Dakota.
- *My printer wouldn't print.*
 - You will lose 5 points without the article attached to your summary. If you come see me before or after school, I will help you as much as I can.
- *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, 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?*
 - It is preferable that you type your summary. However, you may hand-write the summary, using 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 deducted. 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.

Name _____

CUSI Article Summary Grading Rubric

Article Summary Elements	Score
Appropriateness	/5
Who? (Who is the article about?)	/2
What? (What happens in your article?)	/3
Where? (city, country, continent)	/1
When? (month, day, year)	/1
Why/How? (Why or How does it happen?)	/1
Reaction (Your opinion about article/issues)	/3
Presenting to Class	/3
Locating on the map	/1
Total Points	/20

Comments:

Name _____

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Comments: