

Current Events Project

Introduction:

Current events are much more than the fast facts on the front of newspapers. Current events are the unfolding of our timeless stories in the present. Everything we hear, read about, listen to or see has a history and a future, and it is these on-going stories, together and separately, that work to inform and shape our citizenry, public opinion and communities. In order to achieve the learning outcomes of Journalism, students should be able to not only follow these stories, but should also be critical of the ways in which they are told, identify biases, and recognize the advantages and disadvantages of different types of media, as well as their strengths and weaknesses.

Task Overview:

You will choose one of the following projects to complete. Some of the options allow for group work, while others are designed for individuals; some projects may require more time, while others may require more creativity. While making your decision about which option you will choose, please consider the following:

- What interests you the most? Ex. Have you designed a web-page before?
- Do you like working with video recorders?
- Is scrap-booking a hobby?

Options:

1. TTN: The Teen Television Network

In a small group of 2 or 3, you will create your own primetime news network. You will present a sample of your primetime show to the class. The show must be at least five minutes long and it can be performed live or pre-recorded and played on T.V. Your show must include ten elements of a typical news hour and at least five must relate on the themes of Citizenship and Identity. Pay attention to the question, "How does this story represent a particular worldview?" and include as you see fit.

2. The Teen Herald

In a small group of 2-3 people, you will produce your own newspaper. You will choose two issues at all of the local, national and international levels (six issues total). At least half of these news items should be relevant to the themes Citizenship and Identity. You will also include three political cartoons related to your stories (your own drawings or those you can find in sources). Finally, each group member will be responsible for writing an original editorial. The editorials should address the question, "How does this story represent a particular worldview?" in respect to one of the stories you have chosen.

3. What's in the news?

This is an individual project. You will choose one theme (Citizenship or Identity) and find at least 15 different news items in at least four different types of media (newspapers, websites, magazines, TV, radio, documentaries, etc.) Your objective is to analyze each news item, find out what is happening, why it is important, and how the story represents a particular worldview.

You will use your analysis to create your own summary on the issue. In other words, what can you say about the theme you are addressing based on your news items? What can you say about the worldview given, and the different perspectives and interests at stake? You will use PowerPoint to present your findings to the class.

4. My E-News

This project can be completed individually or in pairs. You will produce your own web page that showcases at least **two issues** at each of the local, national and international levels (**six issues total**). Half of these items should be relevant to the themes: Citizenship and Identity. Each person will also include an original editorial specific to one of the issues that addresses the question, "How does this story represent a particular worldview?" For at least three of the stories, you should provide **two web links** to more information on the topic for your readers.

5. Our Community

This is an individual project. You will produce a one-page (double-sided) community newsletter. The type of community the letter is intended should be evident by the content, format and voice of your newsletter and is your choice. For example, are you targeting your neighbourhood? Your circle of friends? Your province? Your school? All girls your age? You should have **at least six items** in your newsletter, and at least half should relate to the themes: Citizenship and Identity. Your design should be a combination of news articles you have collected and your responses to the articles in respect to your audience. In other words, why is the news item important to them?

6. Unfolding the News

This is an individual project. You will choose one current event issue that relates to one of the themes (Citizenship or Identity). This should be a major American issue that is 'unfolding' in the news right now. You will follow the developments of the issue over the course of the term and report your findings in a scrapbook format. Your scrapbook will include:

- Cover page
- Table of Contents
- At least **3** newspaper articles from different sources. For each article you will include a written summary that addresses:
 - What happened?
 - Why is it important?
 - How does this story represent a particular worldview?
- At least **3** opinion pieces on the issue
- At least **3** photographs related to the issue
- One editorial cartoon (your own drawing or one from a source)
- Your opinion of the possible result or how you would resolve the issue

Project Due Date: _____