

Scientific Current Event Project

In this class you are required to complete a scientific current events project once every 9 weeks. This activity is designed to encourage you to read newspapers, read national news periodicals like Newsweek, Time, National Geographic, and US News and World Reports, or check News Services like “http:\\www.cnn.com” on the Internet. This increases critical thinking skills, reading comprehension, and helps prepare you to become a better citizen by being more aware about what is happening in the world of science.

Selection of an Article to Use

Make sure that you choose a scientific event. For example you can go to cnn.com and go to the health or tech section and find appropriate articles there. Example: An article about how they believe dogs really can sniff out cancer in humans or how a new computer chip can mimic the human brain. Do **not** choose articles that deal with entertainment, sports, fashion or gossip. If you have any questions see Mr. Williams to get approval for your article. Inappropriate articles that do not relate to science will not receive a passing grade, and will need to be redone.

Documentation of Event

Behind your written work, you **must have one of the following attached (10 points)**:

- A cut out article or a copy of news article from a periodical (newspaper, magazine, etc.) write the name of periodical and date of its publication.
- A printed copy of text from the WWW that includes the URL, and date.

Presentations of Current Events

Each student will be making a 3 minute presentation of their current event project to the class.

These current event projects will have 2 parts.

- Written (40 Points total)
 - The **first** paragraph is a **summary** of the current event. Make sure that you read the article, and then write your summary in **your own** words. Do Not copy word for word. Copying word for word from the source means an instant “F”. This is called plagiarism and is illegal. Read it and summarize it in your own words. If you do not understand the impact of the article ask someone to read it and discuss the article with him or her. Keep the summary simple and brief as possible, but include all the important information like: Who? What? When? Where? Why? How? (20 points)
 - The **second** paragraph of the Current Event project explains **the implications** of this event. (20 Points) In other words:
 1. What is happening because of this event?
 2. Who is it going to affect?
 3. How is it going to affect a **population** of the world and possibly you?
 4. How does this article relate to the sciences?
 5. What is it that makes this event an important event?

- **Creative Activity** - Choose one activity from the list below **(50 points)**

List of Possible Activities

- Make a mobile about the article.
- Make a poster using the information in the article. You may glue the article to the poster.
- Make a collage about the information in the article. You may use pictures from the Internet or from magazines.
- Make a pop-up card about the article.
- Create a PowerPoint presentation about the article. Maximum 6 slides.
- Write a letter to the editor about the article. State a question or an opinion about the article. Use correct letter format
- You are a T.V. reporter. Write a script for the article you read. Remember that you only have 3 minutes to tell the information
- Make a puppet show about the article. You may use ready-made puppets or make your own.
- Assume the identity of a person in the article. Write a journal entry reflecting your ideas, values, and daily life.
- Draw a picture book to illustrate the article. Make sure the main idea is displayed in the illustrations.
- Any other creative ideas welcome just check with Mr. Williams

These current event projects will be due on Fridays of each week. There will be a sign up sheet for each 9 weeks posted in the classroom. You must complete this project once every 9 weeks for a test grade.

Current Event Rubric

	Poor	Fair	Good
Article	No Article Cut out or Printed 0pts	Told Mr. Williams the website or used a Current Event that Mr. Williams gave you. 5pts	Cut out or printed Article turned in to Mr. Williams 10pts
Paragraph 1	Student has no sentences. 0 pts	Student has 1-3 sentences that barely relate to their article. 10 pts	Student has 5 or more complete sentences that summarize the article. 20 pts.
Paragraph 2	Student answered none of the provided questions. 0pts	Student answered 1-3 of the provided questions in paragraph form. 10 pts	Student answered all 5 of the provided questions in paragraph form. 20 pts
Creative Project	No Creative Project Turned in. 0pts	Student presented their project with some knowledge. The project had no color and was sloppy and hard to read and see. 25pts	The student was well prepared and presented their project with knowledge. The project was neat, colorful, and well thought out. 50 pts