

## **Current Events, Spring Semester 2016**

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Over the past few years, with my 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade students, we have completed current events in a variety of different formats, including simple, shorter essays, Google Slides presentations, and, most recently, videos. This year, I want *you*, as students, to have some input into the format! Many of you are more tech savvy and my idea is to create an assignment that has your complete buy in as well as interest.

**Returning 8<sup>th</sup> Graders:** A few of you will explain what “current events” are, in general.  
(Both old and new students, take notes on student input as well as teacher final comments, below.)

**Brainstorming:** List 1-3 ideas of formats you think might work well for this assignment. Keep in mind that these should be able to be presented, turned in, and graded. I will eliminate any that are too easy, too hard, or cannot, somehow, be turned in. You, as students, will help me learn any new presentation formats you suggest. Then, you, as students, will have your choice of formatting.

*Current events are due whenever we meet in class on a Friday, with a few exceptions, including one due next Tuesday (instead of this Friday), February 4<sup>th</sup> (Hickman Literary Conference), the week of the spring play (you'll be extremely busy as it is), and the week of Wonder Valley..*

## **Required specifics:**

→Brief summary of article

→The significance/ impact of the event on it's a specific context and a larger context (like Tuolumne County, and all of CA; or the U.S. and the world)

→How this event relates to an event in time past that we are studying

→How this event affects you, your family, or close friends personally

→Images (at least 2, and now, with technology, you can include more)

→Remember, it must relate, somehow, to what we are currently studying or have studied in the last few weeks. (For instance, for the first, you could find a current event that occurs in Japan, one about an island or volcano, indigenous people, ocean transportation of goods, a typhoon, or political leaders, religion influencing politics.

(In its original form, these items used to be 5+ sentence requirements, so a total of five paragraphs each. Your own format should be of a similar academic caliber.