

Current Events Discussion Rubric

Major Grade (10 Points), Minor Grade (6 Points) and Standards SS 1.12a, 2.12b, 2.12c, 6.12g

This is a discussion guide for the current events assignment. Those who are in charge of discussing current events for that week must bring printed versions of their submission to class (a copy for every student and teacher). Computers are not allowed during these weekly discussions. Students who are leading the discussion will receive a Major Grade evaluation while those who are participating will receive a Minor Grade evaluation. Check pg 2 and 3 for rubric.

This will be the flow of our Current Events Fridays:

1. Hand out the printed version of the current events assignment to students and the teacher.
2. Lead students will explain the event and their own analysis to the class. Do not simply read off your submission.
3. After the lead students explain their selection and analysis, students can ask questions for clarifications if necessary. During this time, the teacher will ask the lead students to defend their selection of events, i.e. why the students chose these four events and not other events.
4. After a simple Q & A, the lead students will facilitate a discussion based on their open-ended questions. The discussion can veer off to other interesting discussion topics as well.

Through this activity, I am watching whether all students are aware of what is going on around the globe during that week. In order to guarantee a high participation grade, students should expect to make connections to other ongoing events or past events.

Lead Students (Major Grade, 10 Points) Failure to submit hardcopies will automatically result in a 20% reduction Lead students could receive different grades depending on their contribution				
	3	2	1	0
Speaking Skill Students should study and know what they are going to talk about on Friday. Students should not expect to use their handouts as a script. Students who utilize their handout as a reference or an outline will do the best.	The students effectively summarize and analyze the events. The students defend their choice of events in a convincing manner. The students use their handout as a reference rather than a script.	The students summarize and analyze the events. The students defend their choice of events in a somewhat convincing manner. The students occasionally blanks out and check their handout.	The students struggle to effectively summarize and analyze the events. The lead students poorly defend their choice of events. The lead students are relying too much on their handout.	The students struggle to summarize and analyze the events. The lead students fail to defend their choice of events. The lead students are reading word-by-word.
Facilitating Skill Other than "0," my interception does not automatically mean that lead students failed to deliver. I will most likely join the discussion as well (as a participant). There will definitely be times where student comments will get me fired up as well! :)	The students are effectively leading and facilitating the discussion and follow up on interesting, relevant points.	The students are effectively leading and facilitating the discussion and follows up on interesting, relevant topics	The students struggle to lead and facilitate the discussion and struggle to pick up on interesting, relevant points. The teacher needs to frequently pick up on these points.	The students fail to lead and facilitate the discussion in an effective manner. The teacher needs to take over this role for the week.
Knowledge Even if events are "divided" among the lead students, both students should be aware of all events on their handout.	The student is aware of current events and can make connections to other events	It is clear that the student is aware of current events	It is unclear whether the student is aware of current events	It is clear that the student is unaware of current events
Respect			The student is respectful towards his or her peer: listens until the end, involves others in discussion, etc.	The student is disrespectful and creates an environment where no one wants to contribute

Participating Students (Minor Grade, 6 Points)				
	3	2	1	0
Participation	Participates by actively joining discussions with questions and/or builds on discussion	Participates by joining discussion, but contribution is shallow	Minimal participation	No participation
Knowledge Students may refer to past events as well, but this is not a requirement		It is clear that the student is aware of current events	It is unclear whether the student is aware of current events	It is clear that the student is unaware of current events
Respect			The student is respectful towards his or her peer: listens until the end, involves others in discussion, etc.	The student is disrespectful and creates an environment where no one wants to contribute.