Name: _____   Class Period: _____   Due Date: _____

Current Events Guidelines and Rubric

You are expected to print out and read a current event article from a newspaper, magazine or online site. Acceptable news sources: **CNN, Fox, AJC, Washington Post, New York Times, Time, Newsweek, US News and World Report**, etc. The article should be less than a week old and focuses on a **domestic issue** that correlates with a theme in US History (**Political, Social, Economics, Religious, Intellectual and/or Technological**). You are to summarize the article in your own words by addressing the "who, what, when, where and how/why" of the article. (**At least five, well-written and constructed sentences**). You will also provide a commentary (your thoughts or reaction) for the article. Consider what makes the article important; why is it newsworthy; reason for selection; and how it might affect you, your community, your state, the U. S. and/or our world? (**At least five, well-written and constructed sentences**) You will also construct an analysis of your article. You will explain how your article relates to one of the above themes. You will then make a connection to a significant event in U. S. History. Lastly, you must also ask and answer two "thought" provoking questions (**how, why, what if and/or agree/disagree**). At least 2 students will present each week. It is extremely important that you have your article preapproved prior to submission and presentation because you cannot present the same article as a fellow classmate. The paper **must be typed** and ready to hand in at the beginning of class on your designated day. **Staple the rubric on top followed by your typed response and then the article.** In addition, you will be expected to present and discuss the current event. It is very important that you fully understand the article in order to discuss it in class. Be sure to read it thoroughly! *Also, discuss the further implications your current event has on the nation and possibly the world. Why is it significant news*? Your presentation should generate insightful comments and discussion from your classmates. Practice your presentation so that you meet the 5 minute (prior to Q & A) requirement. *__Reading verbatim from your submission is not the same as presenting and discussing your article with the class.__* This assignment is a Project grade so it could weigh heavily on your overall grade. Ten percent will be deducted for each day that it is late. If it is turned in late, it is your responsibility to schedule a time to present.

Guidelines:

1. Article must be at least 500 words (Current and approximately 2 pages printed with URL and/or source, day and time visible on print out; read and annotated)
2. **Typed Analysis of Current Event is at least 4 paragraphs** (1-Summary, 2-Commentary, 3- Theme/Connection to Past Event, 4-Q1 and Answer and Q2 and Answer)

Rubric:

Quality of Article---_____-10pts
- Printed and Annotated ---5pts
- At least 500 Words---3pts
- Source and Time Stamp Visible---2pts

Quality of Summary--_____- 20pts
- Clearly address the 5 Ws---15pts
- Own Words---5 pts

Quality of Commentary--_____-20pts
- Defend Personal Thoughts----10pts
- Explain Impact on community---10pts

Quality of Analysis---_____-30pts
- Identify and Explain Theme---10pts
- Thoroughly Make Connection to Past Historical Event---10pts
- Q1---5pts
- Q2---5pts

Oral Presentation--_____20 pts
- See Reverse Side

Total:

Category/Points	5pts.	4pts.	3pts.	2pts.
Non-Verbal Skills		**10pts.**		
Eye Contact	Holds attention of entire audience with the use of direct eye contact, seldom looking at notes.	Consistent use of direct eye contact with audience, but still returns to notes.	Displayed minimal eye contact with audience, while reading mostly from the notes.	No eye contact with audience, as entire report is read from notes.
Body Language	Movements seem fluid and help the audience visualize.	Made movements or gestures that enhance articulation.	Very little movement or descriptive gestures.	No movement or descriptive gestures.
Verbal Skills		**5pts.**		
Elocution	Student uses a clear voice and correct, precise pronunciation of terms so that all audience members can hear presentation.	Student's voice is clear. Student pronounces most words correctly. Most audience members can hear presentation.	Student's voice is low. Student incorrectly pronounces terms. Audience members have difficulty hearing presentation.	Student mumbles, incorrectly pronounces terms, and speaks too quietly for a majority of students to hear.
Content		**5pts.**		
Subject Knowledge	Student demonstrates full knowledge by not reading directly from board.	Student is at ease with maintaining eye contact and referring to notes.	Student is uncomfortable with information and is unable to elaborate without use of notes.	Student does not have grasp of information; students are totally dependent on notes.

Deductions:
- Working on assignments while fellow classmates are presenting.
- Disruptive behavior during fellow classmates' presentations
- Grammar/Mechanics, not typed, no rubric
- **-10** if you fail to meet the structured frame (**At least 5 well-constructed sentences for summary, commentary and analysis**)

_____**Teacher Comments**_____

Grade: _____

Deductions: _____

Final Grade: _____