

## GOVERNMENT CURRENT EVENTS ASSIGNMENT

It is important for people to know and understand the events that are happening locally and nationally through an Civic Lens. During Distance Learning Week#4, you are required to complete one (1) current event assignment using the same model we used previously.

This assignment consists of reading articles and selecting one pertaining to **local or national** events you can relate to Civics/Government (Political News, Government decisions, major lawsuits, etc.). Articles can be found in credible journalist sources such as websites, magazines and broadcast news media sources (examples provided below). As the impact of the pandemic is at the top of all news feeds, I recommend you try to find other domestic Civics/Government news as well.

The purpose of this assignment is to (1) increase your ability to research current government/civic issues, (2) to increase your understanding how current events relates to Government/Civics, and (3) to be able to **critically evaluate** news articles regarding contemporary issues through a Civic lens.

Write your assignment in paragraph form using good sentence structure with proper spelling, grammar and punctuation. **Write the paper in your own words.** The paper should be one page in length, double spaced with one inch margins on a piece of binder paper, handwritten is preferred (take a picture and email it to me).

You are to meet the following criteria in your assignment:

### 1. Proper Titles – 5 pts

- a. Your full name/period/date and week # in the top right hand corner.
- b. What is the name of the article? Exact wording in bold-type, centered on the page.

### 2. Chicago Style Article Citation – 10 pts

- a. Use the Chicago style of citation – where did you get the article? Original source (where did Google News get it from?)
- b. **OPTIONAL:** Include or attach the original article.
- c. If you are using an internet article or TV broadcast, include a hyperlink address.

### 3. SUMMARY Paragraph – 15 pts

- a. In YOUR words, briefly summarize the content of the article. Be sure to include:
  - What are the positions held by the people mentioned in the article?
  - Can you detect author bias within the article? Explain (use evidence in the form of quotes)
  - Could this event be part of a larger issue? Explain how it fits.
- b. Six(6) sentence minimum.

### 4. ANALYSIS PARAGRAPH– 20 pts

- a. How does or how could this event affect you through an civic lens?
- b. Why is this event important from a civic standpoint? Explain.
- c. What type of action **could you** take in response (solve a problem, write somebody, make other consumer choices, etc.)
- d. Six (6) sentence minimum.

This is **not** a critique of whether the article is good or bad. This assignment is a summary and critical analysis of

the civic/government related issue presented in the article. It will help you practice **objective** learning about current events through an civic lens. Avoid using “I” in your writing, rather use third party in your voice.

### News Sources (not all inclusive)

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|---|--|
| ◆ <a href="http://www.nytimes.com">www.nytimes.com</a> (New York Times)                                 | ◆ <a href="http://www.foxnews.com">www.foxnews.com</a> (Fox – cable T.V. news)           |
| ◆ <a href="http://www.washingtontimes.com">www.washingtontimes.com</a> (Washington Times)               | ◆ <a href="http://www.abcnews.go.com">www.abcnews.go.com</a> (ABC – broadcast T.V. news) |
| ◆ <a href="http://www.latimes.com">www.latimes.com</a> (Los Angeles Times – newspaper)                  | ◆ <a href="http://www.cbsnews.com">www.cbsnews.com</a> (CBS – broadcast T.V. news)       |
| ◆ <a href="http://www.chicagotribune.com">www.chicagotribune.com</a> (Chicago Tribune – newspaper)      | ◆ <a href="http://wsj.com/">wsj.com/</a> (Wall Street Journal)                           |
| ◆ <a href="http://www.msnbc.com">www.msnbc.com</a> (NBC – broadcast T.V. news and its various entities) | ◆ <a href="http://time.com/time/">time.com/time/</a> (Time Magazine)                     |
| ◆ <a href="http://www.cnn.com">www.cnn.com</a> (CNN – cable T.V. news)                                  | ◆ <a href="http://www.reuters.com/">www.reuters.com/</a> (Reuters News Service)          |
| ◆ <a href="http://www.usnews.com">www.usnews.com</a> (U.S. News & World Report)                         | ◆ <a href="http://www.ap.org/">www.ap.org/</a> (Associated Press News Service)           |
|   | ◆ <a href="http://www.bloomberg.com/">www.bloomberg.com/</a> (Bloomberg News Report)     |
|   | ◆ <a href="http://cnbc.com">cnbc.com</a> (broadcast T.V. news)                           |

Check with me regarding any other sources or if you have any other questions about the assignment. Be careful about blog sites as they are generally dominated by opinion. Most articles will indicate if they are opinion or news.

**FIND ORIGINAL SOURCES – AGGREGATORS LIKE GOOGLE NEWS DO NOT WRITE THE NEWS, THEY COMPILE IT AND ARE NOT AN ORIGINAL SOURCE.**