

## What's happening in my world? - Current Events in the Classroom

**Rationale:** This template provides guidance on establishing current events protocols with your students. It offers options and examples for helping students locate appropriate news related resources as well as interpreting and understanding global events. Early in the school year I noticed that my students had limited global awareness and background on how to find appropriate news articles. After introducing students & parents to the resources listed in this module I saw an immediate increase in student initiative to read about global issues. Similarly, I witnessed a huge increase in assignment completion as soon as I launched the online current events analysis form. Many students and parents were happy to hear that it was accessible on mobile devices and they could submit the assignment electronically.

**Objectives:** Students will be able to grow as consumers of information relating to current events and global news.

### **Standards:**

#### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.6.1

Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

#### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.6.2

Determine a central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

#### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.6.5

Analyze how a particular sentence, paragraph, chapter, or section fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the ideas.

#### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.6.6

Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and explain how it is conveyed in the text.

### **News for Kids Resources**

- [www.Newsela.com](http://www.Newsela.com) - A great site with both free and paid versions that allow the user to search for and adjust the lexile level of articles published from popular newspapers. Teachers can also create classes and invite students to join. Students can search for articles, make and save highlights and annotations, and also take common core aligned quizzes.
- [www.TweenTribune.com](http://www.TweenTribune.com) by Smithsonian – Also allows the user to search for and adjust the lexile level of articles published from popular newspapers. Teachers can also create classes and invite students to join.

- [www.DogoNews.com](http://www.DogoNews.com) – An interactive website for students to read and comment on news articles, popular books, and movies. Articles include embedded comprehension questions, critical thinking challenges, and discussion boards.
- [www.cnn.com/studentnews](http://www.cnn.com/studentnews) – A weekly, 10-minute video recap of important news designed for middle and high school classrooms. Printable transcripts and quizzes are available with each video. You can also subscribe to the podcast to receive each new video using an RSS feed.
- [www.OnlineNewspapers.com](http://www.OnlineNewspapers.com) – A simple website to help you or your students navigate to the webpages of international newspapers from around the world. This is an excellent way to compare perspectives of geographically diverse sources and to build world language skills.
- [www.newseum.org/todaysfrontpages/](http://www.newseum.org/todaysfrontpages/) - An easy way to quickly see the front pages of newspapers around the world! Perfect for comparing international perspectives and reactions to the most recent events around the world.

### **Current Events Analysis Online Form**

In my classroom students are expected to use these resources to locate and report on one article of their choice each week. The report was created on Google Forms and I share the link with students. They can type into it on any device and submit electronically. I receive all student answers in a Google spreadsheet with a timestamp of when the assignment was submitted. The form is organized into three sections:

#### **Section 1**

<p><b>Title of Article *</b> What is the title of the article? Don't forget to use "quotation marks"!</p> <p>Your answer</p> <p><b>Publisher *</b> Who is the publisher of this article? ex. The Washington Post or WashingtonPost.com</p> <p>Your answer</p>
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## **Section 2**

### **WHEN: Date of Publication \***

When was this article published?

Your answer

### **WHO is involved? (1-2 sentences)**

Describe important groups or individuals involved.

Your answer

### **WHERE does it take place? (1-2 sentences)**

What is the location? A particular city? An entire country? All over the world?

Your answer

### **WHAT is the main idea? (2-3 sentences) \***

Describe what is going on in the article. What is the author's purpose in telling this story? Why does it matter?

Your answer

## **Section 3**

### **WHY does this matter? \***

Why is the event newsworthy? Why should people read and/or care about it?

Your answer

### **What is your opinion on the issue? \***

If there is a conflict or problem, how do you think it could be resolved peacefully? If there is a central issue, tell me what you believe about it and why.

Your answer