

## CURRENT EVENTS ASSIGNMENT

This is an opportunity for you in pairs to examine a local, national, or international situation or event that is happening now through the use of political thinking skills.

### **LEARNING GOALS: The students will:**

- apply political thinking skills to a current event of their choice
- distinguish between news/current events and "infotainment"
- examine *how* the event/situation impacts people
- determine what people/groups will be involved in resolving the issue
- establish what questions must be asked in order to resolve the issue

### **YOUR TASK:**

- choose 1 news story: you may choose a story that is local, national, or international
- the news story should relate to politics or law
- provide a 3-4 minute presentation to the class
- ask one question to the class about the story relating to politics and/or law
- answer presenter's questions, engage in conversation

### **WHAT SHOULD BE IN MY PRESENTATION?**

1. Make it clear whether your news story is relevant locally, nationally, or internationally.
2. Explain your current event to the class. Be sure to cover the 5WH. (objectives & results)
  - Explain why your issue is important. (political significance)
  - What are the various individuals/groups that would feel strongly about your issue? What are their viewpoints? (political perspective)
  - How is the issue having or going to have an impact locally, nationally, or internationally? (stability & change)

\*NOTE: You can present the content of the above in whatever order makes logical sense for your audience. Be sure to divide up the talking points equitably.

3. At the end of your presentation, provide one question about the issue that will inspire class discussion for your topic. Don't choose something that is impossible to answer (ie. What was Trump thinking when he shut down the government?)
4. Create PowerPoint slides that will help your audience understand the story by focusing on visuals rather than text. Titles and subheadings are appropriate. No other text should be included. Consider maps, images of people involved, images of the event, etc.

### **WHAT IS CONSIDERED AN APPROPRIATE NEWS STORY?**

- Look at major news outlets online and choose their news section.
- Pick something that is "messy". This means that the situation/event is complicated and that there are likely more than one perspective about the event. (ie. the legalization of marijuana)
- Pick a story that you understand. You are responsible for being able to explain it to other students who may know nothing about the news story you have chosen. You will feel more confident in your presentation as well.
- Choose something that has happened in the 3 weeks before your presentation date.

### **CAN I PRESENT ON THE SAME TOPIC AS SOMEONE ELSE?**

No. Once a student has presented on an event/situation, it is not to be done twice. You may sign up with me and I will post your topics on the website. Consult it regularly to determine if you are choosing an appropriate event.

**I AM PRESENTING ON:** \_\_\_\_\_