

What you are going to learn: a) Current information in American Studies that applies to selected themes and topics. b) A useful style of writing

What you will do:

1. Read a current events news article that applies to one of the major US. History themes / topics listed below. All stories must pertain to the United States, whether that be international, national, state, or local news.
2. Write a brief synopsis (summary) of the news story and conclude with strong P.P.O.V. on the article.

THEME TOPICS

Government / Politics
Human Rights
Economics

Environment
Culture / Values
Reform

International Relations
Science and Technology
Conflict

Sports and Entertainment: Fit under culture – May be acceptable but be careful

Good example: An article about the world of gambling on college sports

Bad example: An article about the Bills signing a new kicker from Argentina

Process for completing the assignment:

1. There are a wide variety of printable sources from which to choose your article. Strong examples would be: daily newspapers (D&C, NYT, many on internet such as www.washingtonpost.com), periodicals (U.S. News and World Report, Newsweek, etc.), and the Internet (cnn.com, usatoday.com, etc.) Poor examples would be: The National Enquirer, People, etc. **NOTE:** If you use an internet source article, the article must still be submitted with your assignment.
2. **Warning and Advice:** Pick an article that is substantial (no A.P. or other newswire articles – an author should be listed for your article). It should take you minimally 3-4 minutes to complete reading and highlighting / underlining the article's content. Choose your article carefully. It should be personally interesting to you, since this will naturally make your concluding reflections more meaningful.
3. Write a synopsis (summary) of the story. This should be approximately 2-3 paragraphs in length. Summarize the most salient facts, do not regurgitate the article verbatim. Your first paragraph should be broad (who what where how when) and then details follow in subsequent paragraphs. You must then include personal reactions to the article in a strong concluding paragraph(s). Your synopsis must be no longer than 1 1/2, double spaced, typed pages and no shorter than 1 page.
4. Submit your completed assignment with a filled out grading rubric, your essay, and photocopied article, stapled together in that order.

How you will be evaluated:

A synopsis is due approximately every three weeks (specific due dates to follow). It will be graded out of 30 points (see grading rubric)

YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO SEEK TEACHER ASSISTANCE AND CLARIFICATION AS YOU DECIDE
ON WHAT CURRENT EVENTS ARTICLE TO CHOOSE