

SENIOR SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

DUE: August 20 in your 1st CWI, Government, or AP Government class. This is a MAJOR GRADE. Do not put it off or turn it in late.

This assignment is given to you by your Government and CWI teachers in hopes that as you prepare to become voters in our society, and citizens of the world, you will gain increased knowledge and understanding of the world around you and your role in it. To help you achieve this, we have put together a 3 part assignment.

For this assignment, you will need: a soft-sided (flexible) binder, about ¾"-1" thick. You will need divider tabs and you **MUST CLEARLY LABEL EACH REQUIRED SECTION**. You need three main divider tabs: Tab I for your Part I: Website Evaluation, Tab II for Part II: Current Events, and Tab III for Part III: Looking at the News from Multiple Perspectives.

You will number all the pages in your binder consecutively. Please start the binder with a Table of Contents.

Part I: Website Evaluation – YOU MUST LABEL THIS TAB #1

Choose one of the following websites for this evaluation:

www.cyberschoolbus.un.org www.hrw.org
www.smallarmssurvey.org www.earthtrends.wri.org
www.oneworld.net www.darfurinfo.org
www.irinnews.org www.hri.ca
www.cia.gov/worldfactbook
www.hrw.org
www.earthtrends.wri.org
www.hri.ca

After you pick your website, the NEXT STEP is:

Write two paragraphs , using complete sentences and good grammar in which you:

- Name the website and give its address
- Discuss the types of topics covered on this site and any links it gives to other sites
- Name your favorite part of the website and explain why you like that part
- Write at least a paragraph on this question: What types of assignments would this website be most helpful for?

Part II: Current Events – YOU MUST LABEL THIS TAB #2

In your binder, section II will be devoted to current events. You will be responsible for finding several different kinds of events as listed below. You will be given a diagram at the end of this section showing you how to lay out your binder, as well.

No articles for this assignment may be downloaded/printed on the school's computers. Print them at home, or cut out the articles from newspapers or newsmagazines and staple/tape them to the page in your binder.

Part II must include the following kinds and numbers of articles: (you should be looking for articles between June 18 and Aug. 16, although if you wish to start earlier, you may) We recommend that you try to do 3 articles a week.

Numbers and Types of Articles

For each type of article you will need a sub-tab.

Tab A: United States articles: please focus on articles dealing with important government issues: for example, choosing a new Supreme Court Justice, or Pres. Obama and the health care or financial crisis, etc.

You must find 4 articles dealing with a combination of these things.

Tab B: Find 4 articles on Europe (any country, any national issue)

Tab C: Find 4 articles on Africa (any country, any national issue)

Tab D: Find 4 articles on Latin America (any country, any national issue)

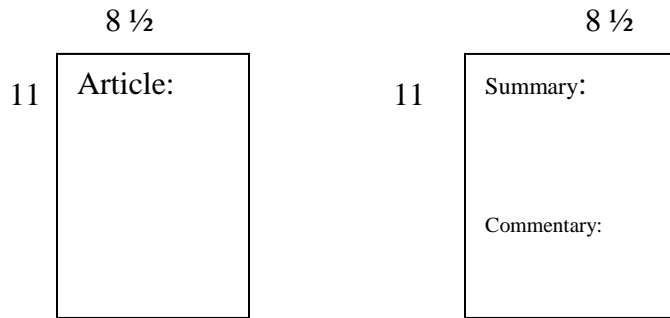
Tab E: Find 4 articles on the Middle East (any country, any national issue)

Tab F: Find 4 articles on Asia (any country, any national issue)

For each and every article in this project you will follow these exact instructions:

- On the left side of the open binder (see diagram which follows) will be your article
- On the right side of the open binder (see diagram) will be the information about the article's title, source and date PLUS
 - a one paragraph summary, in your own words, of the article
 - a one paragraph commentary which answers these questions:
 - Is this an issue that is important to the United States? Why?
 - How is this issue important to the country concerned if not the U.S.?
 - Why did this article catch your attention?

The following diagram shows the proper layout for your binder:



HERE ARE SOME WEBSITES TO HELP YOU WITH PART II

U.S. Sources

www.newspapers.com
www.sfgate.com
www.nytimes.com
www.newsdirectory.com
www.sfbayguardian.com
www.latimes.com
www.commoncause.org
www.thenation.com
www.time.com

Foreign Sources

www.ukguardian.com
www.economist.com
www.irinnews.org
www.wn.com
www.afrol.com
<http://news.bbc.co.uk>
www.middleeastdaily.com
<http://sudantribune.com>

PART III: Looking at the News From Multiple Perspectives – Use TAB #3

You are going to track one big story throughout the whole summer to see it develop. To do this you will use both U.S. and foreign sources. Here's how to set up this part.

A. Find an ongoing story (Darfur? Iraq? Immigration? Afghanistan?)

- Read 3 articles from the U.S. press on this topic and spread the timing of them out across the summer (one June, one July, one August) -of course, you may read more than 3 if you wish
- Then, read 3 articles on the same topic which were written in the foreign press (space them out across the summer as well)
- Write commentaries (using the same format as you used on all your previous articles) for all 6 articles

B. THEN:

answer these questions at the end of Part III; use paragraph form for each question

- On what issue did you choose to focus? Why?
- What U.S. sources did you use?
- In a thoughtful paragraph, summarize the attitude of the U.S. media toward the topic you researched – were the U.S. sources biased toward any particular aspect of the topic? Did they dislike the topic? What seemed to be the viewpoint of the U.S. articles?
- What foreign sources did you use?
- In a thoughtful paragraph, summarize the attitude of the foreign sources toward the topic – were they biased toward any particular aspect of the topic? Did they dislike the topic? What seemed to be the viewpoint of the foreign articles?

• Next, in a thoughtful paragraph, discuss the differences between the reporting in the US media and the foreign media

• Finally, answer thoughtfully: what can awareness of the different ways an issue is viewed across the world teach us about world problems?

NOTE: Part III is a very important part of the project; don't neglect it!

OVERALL

Plan your work out over the summer. It cannot be done the night before it's due. You will die of exhaustion if you try to do that.

Gather your articles across the summer – it really doesn't take long to find them. Assign yourself one morning a week to do the write-ups. If you know you are going away on vacation, then gather a few more before you go, and a few extra when you come back. Just don't put it off indefinitely.

By summer's end, you will be: more mature, more knowledgeable, ready to vote and take your place as an informed citizen. You will feel more confident about your world and your place in it.

Remember: you will be voting soon and you want to do a good job. It's your world –
EMBRACE IT!!!