

WORLD NEWS REPORTS



An important factor in being a good citizen is following and understanding current events around the world. Therefore, you will need to **complete one world news report per month**. The reports must be about **serious news articles** that you select (i.e., no sports, entertainment, gossip, etc.). The articles must be long enough so that you can include all of the information listed below. Usually newspaper articles that include the author's name are long enough. The **articles must come from respected sources** such as The Des Moines Register, Newsweek, Time, CNN.com, MSNBC.com, etc. Your reports must focus on **world news**. **This means the story may involve the United States, but also must involve other countries.** Each report must include the following information about your article:

1. **Who** is the article about? (one person, several people, a group etc.)
2. **What** is the article about? (event, idea, etc.)
3. **Where** is the story taking place? (city, country, state, etc.)
4. **When** is the story taking place?
5. **Why** is the story important?
6. **My thoughts:** There are several ways you can show your own critical thinking about the article. **Pick ONE** of the following:
 - **What Next?** - Predict what you think might happen next. Make sure you explain **WHY** you think it will happen.
 - **What If?** - Explain how different actions may have made the story turn out differently. If it was a tragic story, could the tragedy have been avoided? If it was a happy story, could it have turned out tragically? **HOW?**
 - **My opinion** - Do you agree with certain people in the story, do you disagree? **WHY?** It's very important to give **SPECIFIC** reasons for your opinion.
 - **Point of View** - Try to explain the story from the point of view of someone involved. What would *their* opinion be? **WHY?** Again, use **SPECIFIC REASONS!**

This last item will not be able to be completed thoroughly by simply skimming the story. You must **show a complete understanding of the story** and **use your critical thinking skills**.

Your reports should be written in **power paragraph** form. Also, I must know where your article came from. There are two ways you can let me know: 1) **Staple the article to the behind your report** OR 2) **write the title, date, and page number of the article at the top of your report**.

*** When you hand your report in, make sure you attach a **grade sheet** (you can get them from me). **There is a world map on the back of the grade sheet.** Part of your grade for "Where" is to **accurately label all locations from your article on that map!** DO **NOT** forget this important step!

Your report **may be handed in at any point before the due date!!** If you hand it in early, you can **REDO** it for a **better score before the due date occurs!!** Also, articles should be **no more than 2 weeks old from the day you hand it in.** The due dates are listed below:

September 26
October 24
December 5
January 30

February 27
March 27
April 23 (*Thursday!!*)
May 22

Each report will be **worth 25 points** and you will be penalized for World News Reports handed in *late* as with any other assignments. **I recommend that you do not put this off until the day before they are due,** as you will also have regular homework assignments, tests, etc. to prepare for.

~ Mr. Bissinger

World News Reports Criteria

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Doesn't Meet Criteria</u>
<i>Who</i> (3 points)	All major people and groups of people in the story are identified.	Only some of the important people or groups of people are identified.	No major people or groups of people are identified.
<i>What</i> (3 points)	All of the events of the article are explained so that the reader has a clear understanding of what has occurred.	The article is summarized, but important details are left out.	The events of the story are either inaccurate or lack any detail.
<i>Where</i> (3 points)	All key locations are identified and mapped on the grade sheet.	Locations are vague or incomplete not accurately placed on the grade sheet.	Locations are either missing or inaccurate.
<i>When</i> (3 points)	All important dates are given as precisely as possible.	Some important dates are missing.	Dates are either missing or inaccurate.
<i>Why</i> (3 points)	The student has explained what makes the story important to its readers.	There is an attempt to explain importance that does not relate to the details of the story.	There is no explanation of importance.
<i>My Thoughts</i> (5 points)	The student uses details of the story to express logical, critical thinking about the article.	There is some critical thinking, but it's not logical or based upon details of the story.	The critical thinking is missing or not strongly related to the story.
<i>Conventions</i> (5 points)	The student has made no errors in spelling, sentence structure, paragraph structure, etc.	The student has made few errors in spelling, sentence structure, paragraph structure, etc.	The student has made repeated errors in spelling, sentence structure, paragraph structure, etc.