**Eng. III**

**Current Event Group Assignment**

**Objective:**

This assignment is intended to keep students abreast of current evets and breaking news. Furthermore, it will require students to present their understanding of particular current events in class presentations that summarize a topic and provide an appropriate analysis of an article. Additionally, it will potentially provide students with some relevant material to reference for upcoming argumentative essays and/or research papers.

**Assignment Overview:**

Your task is to find a non-fiction newspaper or magazine article (yes, you CAN use online periodicals) to analyze. Your article should, in some way, contribute to a discussion pertaining to the following questions: **What does it mean to be an American? Is America “great?”**

You may find appropriate articles to meet the expectations of this assignment in the following periodicals; however, you are not limited to the following suggestions.

Articles, editorials, or essays from the following issues-based magazines are acceptable:

 *Newsweek, Time, The New Yorker, Rolling Stone, Atlantic Monthly, New Republic, Forbes, The Economist, The Atlantic, National Geographic, Harper’s,* and *Scientific American*

Articles, editorials, or essays from the following reputable newspapers are acceptable:

 *The New York Times, The National Post, The Guardian, The Washington Post, The Chicago Sun Times, The State, The Herald-Journal, the Post and Courier, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, The Miami Herald, The Los Angeles Times, The San Francisco Chronicle, The Dallas Morning News, The Huffington Post,* and *The Wall Street Journal*

To use a source not listed above, see me for approval.

**Assignment Specifics:**

1. As a group, locate an appropriate article. Once you have done so, share the article with me via email.
2. Discuss the article with your group. Your **commentary** will drive the focus of your upcoming Friday presentation, and it should focus on the article’s **content** (*What does the author have to say?),* **form/style** (*How does that author say it?)*, and **credibility** *(How reliable is it?).*
3. As a group, formulate a minimum of ten questions to accompany your article (Refer to 5a-5c for help). When formulating your group questions, you should strive to generate discussion, focusing on more than simple facts explicitly stated in the article. Think about **content**, **form/style**, and **credibility**.
4. For your group’s designated Friday presentation date, you should provide a copy of your article for each student (approximately 20 copies will be needed). You should also provide a copy of your group’s questions for each student (approximately 20 copies will be needed).
5. During your Friday presentation, one group member will be expected to read your article aloud. Discussion will follow, and all group members will be required to speak. Discussion should focus on the aforementioned **content**, **form/style**, and **credibility**. The following themes might help you when generating more specific questions for discussion:
	1. When commenting on the article’s **content**, you may defend, challenge, or qualify the author’s claim/point/thesis/interpretation. Additionally consider:
		1. What are some of the author’s best arguments? What makes them effective?
		2. Which arguments made by the author do not make sense to you? Why?
		3. Is the author using logical or emotional appeals to get you to agree with him/her? Why?
	2. When commenting on the author’s **form/style**, discuss the author’ diction, syntax, tone, imagery, organization, appeals, etc. Additionally, consider:
		1. Is there any connotative language?
		2. What is the writer’s attitude toward the subject? How do you know?
		3. Is the author objective or biased? Why?
	3. When commenting on the author’s **credibility**, you should evaluate the author’s use of evidence/support. Additionally, consider:
		1. Does the author adequately support his/her claims with appropriate evidence?
		2. How reliable are the author’s sources?
		3. Does the author use any fallacious logic?
		4. Ultimately, do you agree or disagree with the claims made in the article?

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| **CRITERIA** | **1 point**  | **2 points**  | **3 points**  | **4 points**  |
| **SUMMARY** | **Vague summary**  | **Clear summary** | **Clear, Detailed Summary** | **Detailed, Thought-Provoking Summary** |
| **COMMENTARY** | **Commentary Reveals Little Insight or Originality** | **Commentary Reveals Some Insight** | **Commentary is Interesting and Insightful** | **Commentary is Exemplary** |
| **DISCUSSION** | **Group Questions Generate No Discussion**  | **Group Questions Generate Some Discussion** | **Group Questions Generate Insightful Discussion** | **Group Questions Generate Insightful Discussion and Debate** |