**BELL Academy**

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies Summer Assignment:  Current Events

Welcome to 7<sup>th</sup> grade social studies, I am looking forward to teaching your class next year. In class we will investigate American History from its beginning until the year 1870.  In class we will focus heavily on reading nonfiction selections and discussing them as small groups and an entire class to further our understanding of history.  We will also use many maps and visuals to better understand the constantly evolving nation where we live.  If you have any questions regarding this assignment, please feel free to email me at [kchobot@thebellacademy.com](mailto:kchobot@thebellacademy.com) .  I will do my best to respond promptly to questions regarding this class or the summer assignment.

**Directions:**

Over the summer, please select four current events news articles that you find interesting (further explanation below).  Articles should be from four different time periods: early July, late July, early August, and late August.  If a time period is missed, students may select more than one article per time period.  Students should then answer the questions for each article as well as locating where the story took place on the map.

**Article Selection:**

Please select an article from the main, news section of the newspaper.  While articles on sports and fashion are interesting, those stories are better for reading on your own enjoyment, not social studies class.  However, since 2016 is an election year, one of the four articles selected by students should relate to the upcoming election or the election process.  Please also make certain that your article is primarily about the United States.  Since you will be studying the history of the United States, I would like you to gain familiarity with issues that impact our country.  You may use online resources for articles.  Some suggested sources:  cnn.com, NYtimes.com, or studentnewsdaily.com.  If you would like to select follow up articles on the same topic from different time periods, you may do so for two of the four articles.  I realize children may be at camp or on vacation during the summer, but I would prefer students attempt to stick to the four time frames given.  This is to help show how the emphasis on news stories changes over time as well as trying to ensure that this assignment is not all completed the last week of summer vacation.

**How will this assignment be used in class?**

This assignment will help students identify the main idea of a nonfiction reading as well as details to justify why the main idea is the central focus of an article.  This is a skill we will use regularly in social studies class.  The idea of locating where the news story takes place will help familiarize students with the map of the United States.

**Grading**:

This will count as your child's first homework grade of the new school year.  It will also impact his/her participation grade for the first few days of school.  Students will be able to discuss their articles with their small group of approximately five students.  Students will also have the opportunity to discuss their articles with the entire class.

**Article 1 (First half of July)**
If you prefer to type your response, an electronic version of this paper is available at
TheBELLAcademy.com.
Current Events:  All answers should be written in complete sentences.

Where in the United States does your story take place?  Please indicate this on the map of the United States as well.

What is the Source of your article? (Please include the date accessed if a web page or the date of the article if a newspaper and a copy or cut-out of the article)

Highlight the *5 W*'s:

Who:  What person or group of people is this reading about?

What:  What is the main idea of this reading?

Where:  What is the physical location of the particular reading?

When:  When does the action of the reading take place?

Why:  Why does the action in the reading happen? **OR** Why is the action in this reading important news?

How Much:  Are there any statistics or facts that help support the "5 W's"? (almost all news articles have a "How Much" that helps make the article and "5 W's" more interesting for the reader)

**Explain your interest in the article:**
Why did you select this particular article?

Does this article impact you directly?  Indirectly? If so, please explain the way you are impacted by this article.

What other news or historical events can you connect with your news article?  Does your article relate to other news you have read, discussed with others, or seen on television?

**Article 2 (Second half of July)**
Current Events:  All answers should be written in complete sentences.  If you prefer to type your response, an electronic version of this paper is available at TheBELLAcademy.com.

Where in the United States does your story take place?  Please indicate this on the map of the United States as well.

What is the Source of your article? (Please include the date accessed if a web page or the date of the article if a newspaper and a copy or cut-out of the article)

Highlight the *5 W*'s:

Who:  What person or group of people is this reading about?

What:  What is the main idea of this reading?

Where:  What is the physical location of the particular reading?

When:  When does the action of the reading take place?

Why:  Why does the action in the reading happen? **OR** Why is the action in this reading important news?

How Much:  Are there any statistics or facts that help support the "5 W's"? (almost all news articles have a "How Much" that helps make the article and "5 W's" more interesting for the reader)

**Explain your interest in the article:**
Why did you select this particular article?

Does this article impact you directly?  Indirectly? If so, please explain the way you are impacted by this article.

What other news or historical events can you connect with your news article?  Does your article relate to other news you have read, discussed with others, or seen on television?

**Article 3 (First half of August)**
Current Events:  All answers should be written in complete sentences.  If you prefer to type your response, an electronic version of this paper is available at TheBELLAcademy.com.

Where in the United States does your story take place?  Please indicate this on the map of the United States as well.

What is the Source of your article? (Please include the date accessed if a web page or the date of the article if a newspaper and a copy or cut-out of the article)

Highlight the  *5 W*'s:

Who:  What person or group of people is this reading about?

What:  What is the main idea of this reading?

Where:  What is the physical location of the particular reading?

When:  When does the action of the reading take place?

Why:  Why does the action in the reading happen? **OR** Why is the action in this reading important news?

How Much:  Are there any statistics or facts that help support the "5 W's"? (almost all news articles have a "How Much" that helps make the article and "5 W's" more interesting for the reader)

**Explain your interest in the article:**
Why did you select this particular article?

Does this article impact you directly?  Indirectly? If so, please explain the way you are impacted by this article.

What other news or historical events can you connect with your news article?  Does your article relate to other news you have read, discussed with others, or seen on television?

**Article 4 (Second half of August)**
Current Events:  All answers should be written in complete sentences.  If you prefer to type your response, an electronic version of this paper is available at TheBELLAcademy.com.

Where in the United States does your story take place?  Please indicate this on the map of the United States as well.

What is the Source of your article? (Please include the date accessed if a web page or the date of the article if a newspaper and a copy or cut-out of the article)

Highlight the  *5 W*'s:

Who:  What person or group of people is this reading about?

What:  What is the main idea of this reading?

Where:  What is the physical location of the particular reading?

When:  When does the action of the reading take place?

Why:  Why does the action in the reading happen? **OR** Why is the action in this reading important news?

How Much:  Are there any statistics or facts that help support the "5 W's"? (almost all news articles have a "How Much" that helps make the article and "5 W's" more interesting for the reader)

**Explain your interest in the article:**
Why did you select this particular article?

Does this article impact you directly?  Indirectly? If so, please explain the way you are impacted by this article.

What other news or historical events can you connect with your news article?  Does your article relate to other news you have read, discussed with others, or seen on television?

Please indicate where in the United States Each of your news articles takes place.  The easiest way to identify this on the map would be to place the number of the article near the city and state where that story takes place.
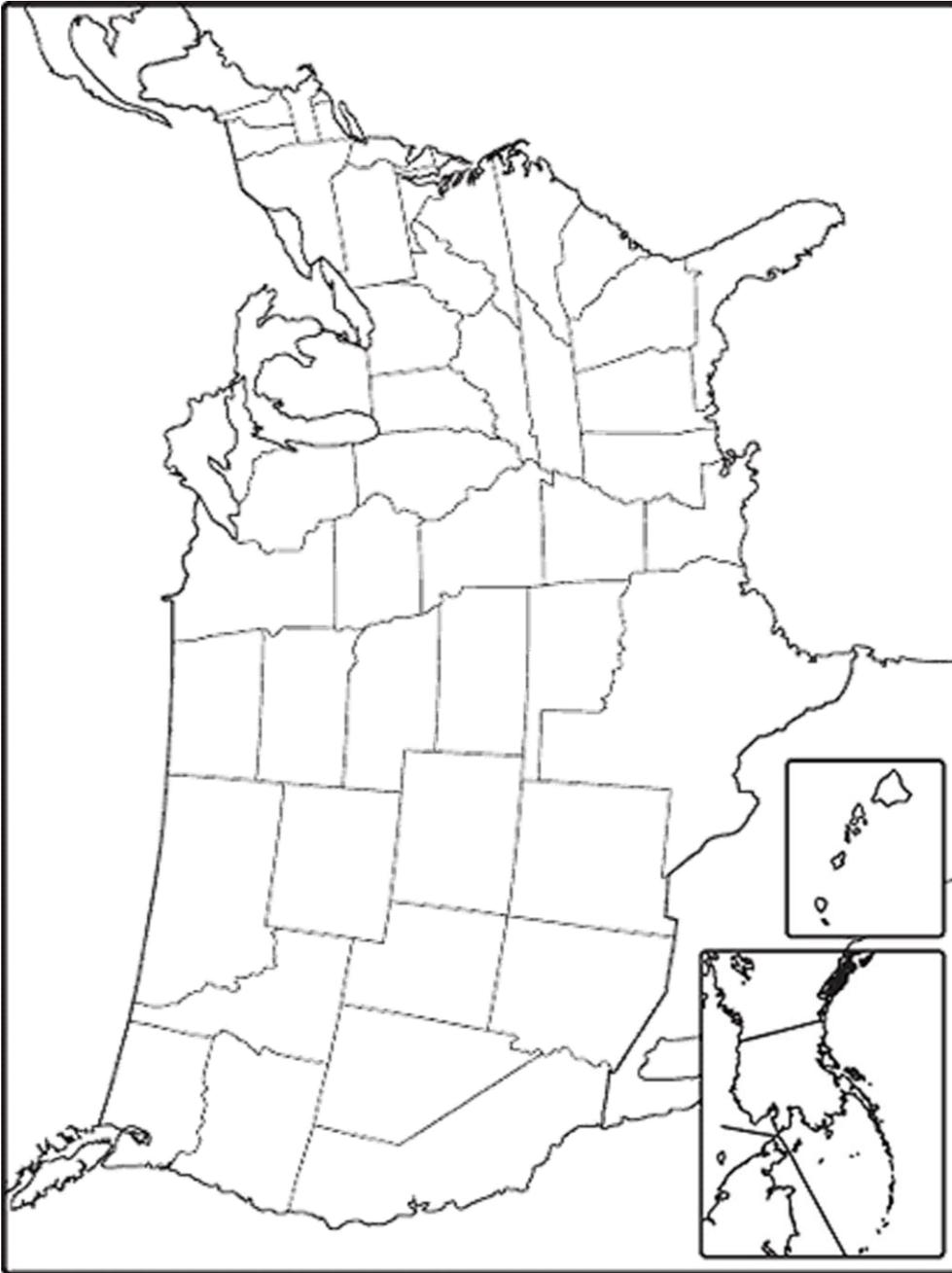
# Current Event Article Summary Grading Rubric

| CATEGORY | 4 - Above Standards | 3 - Meets Standards | 2 - Approaching Standards | 1 - Below Standards |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Article Selection** | The articles selected are appropriate for social studies class and the student has selected articles from the given time ranges. | The articles are appropriate for class, but the articles may not be from the given time periods. | The articles are not of appropriate content and.or are not from the given time frames. | The articles selected are not appropriate for social studies class and they are not from the given time frame. |
| **5 W's** | All supportive facts and statistics are reported accurately. Article is fully explained and summarized in own words. | Almost all supportive facts and statistics are reported accurately. Article is mostly explained and summarized in own words. | Some supportive facts and statistics are reported accurately. Weak explanation and summary that is partially plagiarized. | Most supportive facts and statistics were inaccurately reported. Article is poorly explained and summary is mostly plagiarized. |
| **Grammar & Spelling** | Author makes no errors in grammar, sentence structure, or spelling that distract the reader from the content. | Author makes 1-3 errors in grammar, sentence structure, or spelling that distract the reader from the content. | Author makes 4-6 errors in grammar, sentence structure, or spelling that distract the reader from the content. | Author makes more than 6 errors in grammar, sentence structure, or spelling that distract the reader from the content. |
| **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.2** Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions. | There is significant evidence presented by the student that shows the student understands this standard. | There is some evidence presented that shows the student understands this standard. | There is limited evidence presented that shows the student understands this standard. | The student does not present evidence they understand this standard. |
| **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.1** Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources | There is significant evidence presented by the student that shows the student understands this standard. | There is some evidence presented that shows the student understands this standard. | There is limited evidence presented that shows the student understands this standard. | The student does not present evidence they understand this standard. |