



George Washington Carver
Engineering and Science High School
2019 Summer Enrichment

8th Grade Social Studies: Current Events Project

Complete the attached project by Friday,
September 11th. Be sure to proofread your work
and refer to the rubric before submission.



Summer Social Studies Project

Right now, across the world, journalists are tracking unbelievable stories of triumph, struggle, independence, and suffering. From the killings of thousands of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, to the closing of NYC's largest jail (Rikers Island), the stories of ordinary people facing the world's most important issues deserve to be heard. That is why this summer, you will spend six weeks reading/researching articles related to a particular topic in the news. Over the course of the summer, you must collect **AT LEAST** three articles related to the topic.

Here is the tricky part!! You cannot collect three articles in the same week. Your articles must be published at least 2-weeks apart from each other! So, for example, if your first article was published July 1st, your second article must be published after July 13th, and the third article must be published after July 27th.

Using these three articles, by the end of the summer, you must complete one of the assignment options listed below. **FOR ALL** options, you must address the following essential questions:

Essential Questions

- **WHAT** is the central problem you have been tracking all summer?
- **WHERE** is the central problem you have been tracking all summer?
WHEN did it begin?
- **WHO** (what groups/individuals/countries) has been affected by this issue?
- **WHO/WHAT** is responsible for addressing this issue? What should they do?
- **WHY** did the conflict or issue you have been studying begin, or why hasn't it been solved?

Project Options & Requirements

Option 1: A Poem/Rap

For this option, you will write a poem or a rap that explains the central issue that you have studied over the course of the summer.

In your poem or rap, make sure to address the following requirements:

- Your poem(s) or rap must be at least two pages long (double spaced). You may also write two separate poems/raps.
- Your poem or rap must be accompanied by a 1-2 paragraph summary that addresses the essential questions above.
- Through your poem or rap, you must explain what initial feelings or reactions came to you while researching this issue over the summer.

Option 2: A Billboard or Two-Minute Commercial

For this option, you will design a billboard or two-minute commercial to make people aware of the issue you studied this summer. If you create a two-minute commercial using clips or iMovie, please make sure you can download and email the clip you create.

If you are creating a billboard, you must address the following requirements:

- The billboard should be drawn/painted/designed on a poster that is at least 18 inches x 18 inches.
- The billboard must be accompanied by a 1-2 paragraph summary that addresses the essential questions above.
- The billboard should raise awareness of the conflict or issue you studied.

If you are creating a two-minute commercial, you must address the following requirements:

- Your commercial must be AT LEAST two minutes long
- Your commercial must include both visuals and audio. Please make sure that any song included does not include curse words.
- The commercial should raise awareness of the conflict or issue you studied.
- The billboard must be accompanied by a 1-2 paragraph summary that addresses the essential questions above.

Option 3: A Script

For this option, you will create a script for a movie or play that focuses on the issue you studied this summer. For example, if you read articles about North Korea developing nuclear weapons, you might write include a conversation between President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in your script.

Over the course of your script, you must address the following questions:

- Your script must be a minimum of two and a half pages (double spaced).
- Your script (or movie scene) must have a clear setting and at least two characters. You must explain the general setting in a short paragraph before your actual script.
- The script must be accompanied by a 1-2 paragraph summary that addresses the essential questions above.

CURRENT EVENTS SUMMER SOCIAL STUDIES PROJECT

This summer, you were asked to pick an issue that is currently affecting people in your own community, or a community in another part of the world. You were also asked to research this issue by finding three informational articles related to the topic of your choice. Based on your research, you could have chosen to present your knowledge of the issue you studied in one of the following ways:

- A poem or rap accompanied by a 1-2 paragraph summary
- A billboard or two minute commercial accompanied by a 1-2 paragraph summary
- A movie or play script

The following are essential questions you were asked to consider when completing your project:

- **WHAT** is the central problem you have been tracking all summer?
- **WHERE** is the central problem you have been tracking all summer? **WHEN** did it begin?
- **WHO** (what groups/individuals/countries) has been affected by this issue?
- **WHO/WHAT** is responsible for addressing this issue? What should they do?
- **WHY** did the conflict or issue you have been studying begin, or why hasn't it been solved?

Criteria	Excellent	Acceptable	Developing	No Evidence
Discussion of Essential Questions	All essential questions are addressed thoroughly. Answers to essential questions are communicated through creative and detailed descriptions or storytelling.	All essential questions are addressed with detail. Some essential questions are addressed in greater detail than others. Answers to essential questions are communicated through creative and relatively detailed descriptions or storytelling.	Not all essential questions are addressed and/or all questions are addressed, but unevenly, or with little detail. Answers to essential questions communicated through descriptions that lack detail.	Essential questions are not addressed, or addressed with almost no detail.
Use of Evidence to Demonstrate Understanding of Issue	Student demonstrates deep knowledge of issue by incorporating three examples or pieces of information from sources into their poem, billboard, or script. Information incorporated into project is obviously influenced by the content of specific articles.	Student demonstrate knowledge of issue by incorporating two examples of pieces of information from sources into their poem, billboard, or script. Information incorporated into project is obviously influenced by the content of specific articles.	Student demonstrates only basic understanding of issue. Specific examples or pieces of information from sources are not incorporated into student's project. Informational aspect of project is not obviously influenced by the content of specific articles.	Student does not demonstrate a clear understanding of selected issue. Student does not incorporate any examples or pieces of information from sources. Source content does not influence project contents.

Organization and Clarity	Demonstrates mastery of standard English. Few errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, and mechanics. Writing makes sense to the reader.	Demonstrates a command of standard English. Several errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, and mechanics. Writing makes sense to the reader.	Demonstrates an emerging command of standard English. Frequent errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, and mechanics. Writing makes sense to the reader.	Demonstrates an emerging command of standard English. Frequent errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, and mechanics. Writing does not make sense to the reader.
Fulfillment of Project Criteria	All aspects of the task (including 1-2 paragraph summaries, source list, and main project) are addressed in detail. Length requirements fulfilled.	All aspects of the task (including 1-2 paragraph summaries, source list, and main project of appropriate length) are addressed.	Some aspects of the task (i.e. the 1-2 paragraph summaries, source list, or main project of appropriate length) are not completed adequately. Length requirements not fulfilled.	Some aspects of the task (i.e. the 1-2 paragraph summaries, source list, or main project of appropriate length) are incomplete. Length requirements not fulfilled.