

Science Current Events

Why?

To help make science relevant to your life I am requiring that you bring a science related news article that is current to class every week (biology, chemistry, physical science, earth and space science, environmental science, etc). If you would rather email it to me that is okay too. The current event assignment requires reading at least one newspaper, magazine article, or online article that pertains to the unit we are going over in class.

You will then prepare a summary of the article. The purposes of this assignment are to: (1) increase your ability to research current events in environmental law; (2) increase your understanding of a particular area of environmental law; and (3) be able to critically evaluate and present news articles regarding environmental topics.

The articles may be from a newspaper, the internet, a magazine or periodical. Make sure that you include the name and date of the source as well as the title of the article in your written report (see below).

Every Tuesday a new science times is released by the New York Times. Current event article and written report are due on **FRIDAY!**

The last paragraph of your paper should include your personal opinion or interpretation of the article. This is important.

Examples of possible topic areas include: The Clean Air Act, The Clean Water Act, Superfund, the Endangered Species Act, toxic substances, energy, or environmental justice. Be aware that many newspaper and magazine articles are biased or are missing crucial information. This can be a challenge because you will want to present the information in an unbiased (i.e. more scholarly) manner. For these reasons, it is highly recommended that you use more than one source for your paper. For example, the Los Angeles Times may report on the issue in one way and the San Jose Mercury may report on the issue in a different way. Do not use opinion or op-ed pages as references as these convey the opinion of the newspaper or the writer and are always biased.

The paper should be at least a page in length, double-spaced, one inch margins, and in 12-point font.

As much as possible, write the paper in your own words. If you need to use one or two short quotes, cite properly. However, do not merely use long passages or quotes from the article(s) as this will have a negative effect on your score.

You will also present your current event summary to the class. This requires that you discuss your article for about 2 minutes. The current events assignments will be distributed among all students throughout the quarter. **You will be assigned on Monday, so there will be no work late accepted on Friday.**

“Spacewalking Astronauts Repair Station”
<http://www.cnn.com>, 8/3/04

The two astronauts on the international space station left the station Tuesday to do some outside repairs. The two astronauts, Russian Gennady Padalka and American Mike Fincke left the space station empty while they were outside. Usually a third person is on the station, but since the Columbia disaster there has been only two people on the space station. The men installed laser reflectors and antennas to get ready for a cargo ship that will be coming next year. They also changed some science experiments and disconnected a TV camera’s electrical cable. At one point, communication was lost between the men and Earth. A NASA official said a main U.S. radio link had been turned off by flight controllers, but communication was soon restored through Russian ground stations.

Vocabulary

Questions

Your current events assignment will be graded according to the following rubric:

CURRENT EVENTS RUBRIC

	PROFICIENT 16 PTS	DEVELOPING 12 PTS	NEEDS WORK 8 PT
Summary	Captures and communicates the main points of the article	Captures some of the main points or does not stick to the main points and includes too much supportive information	Reflects little understanding of the main points of the article
Significance	Aptly expresses why the article is of significance to society and why, personally, he/she chose the article	Expresses either why the article was chosen or how the article is significant to society but not both	Does not express why the article was chosen or how the article is significant to society.
Vocabulary	Three difficult words chosen and defined	Words of questionable difficulty defined	Fewer than three words defined
Format	Identifies the title, source and publication date, attaches the article	One of the four listed is missing.	Two of the four listed are missing.
Writing	All statements are in students own words. Cited if needed.	One phrase very similar to one in the original article	Two or three phrases very similar to ones in the original article
Length of article	Original article is at least 25 sentences long.	Article is 16 to 24 sentences in length.	Original article is 15 or less sentences.

TOTAL from rubric: _____ 4 points will be added for including your full name, date, period on the assignment.

FINAL TOTAL: _____

Note: If your article is not related to science or has four or more phrases similar to those in the original article, the assignment will be returned to you. It may be redone within two days and returned with 20 points deducted.

ABC News: www.abcnews.go.com
Astronomy Magazine: <http://www.astronomy.com/home.asp>
CBS News: www.cbsnews.com
CNN: www.cnn.com
Discovery Channel News: <http://dsc.discovery.com/news/news.html>
Fox News: www.foxnews.com
Geology.com (news): <http://geology.com/news/>
Los Angeles Times, Science: <http://www.latimes.com/news/science>
National Geographic News: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com>
Nature: <http://www.nature.com/nature/>
NBC News: www.msnbc.com
Popular Science Magazine: <http://www.popsci.com/popsci>
Science Daily: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/>
Science Matters (science news and a monthly guide to science on TV):
<http://www.sciencematters.com>
Science News: www.sciencenews.org
Scientific American: <http://sciam.com/>
Sky and Telescope: <http://skyandtelescope.com>
USA Today, Science: <http://www.usatoday.com/news/science/digest.htm>
The Why Files (explains the science and math, and technology behind headline news): <http://whyfiles.org>
Yahoo: http://dir.yahoo.com/Science/News_and_Media/