

**SPRING TERM PROJECT: CURRENT EVENTS TRACKING, SUMMARY, AND EVALUATION**

This is a **REQUIRED** project for Global History and Geography at RKA. Failure to submit a project may result in failure for the course. The project counts as approximately 25% of your grade in MP2. Students who either: 1) do not submit a project; or 2) receive a failing project grade in MP2 will need to submit the project again in MP3.

**Due Date:** Tuesday, April 12 (Note: Absence will NOT be an excuse for a late project. If you are absent for any reason, you must find a way to turn in your work on time.) Use this *suggested timetable* to stay on track:

<i>Fri. March 18</i>	<i>Fri. March 25</i>	<i>Fri. April 1</i>	<i>Fri. April 8</i>
Have several articles chosen	Complete 2-3 article summaries	Complete a rough draft	Proofread & fix any errors

**Lateness Policy:** 15 points off for one day late; 5 points for each additional day; each weekend day counts.

**Task:** Over the course of 6 weeks, you will track a current events topic. You will submit five newspaper articles, a summary of each article, and a written evaluation of the topic you have chosen.

**Choosing a Topic:** Your topic must pertain to current international news. Topics that pertain only to the U.S. are not acceptable. You may choose a topic from the options below or choose your own topic. Topics are due Friday, March 4. Once it is chosen, **you may not change your topic without my approval.**

**Some Topic Ideas**

Region	Topic Ideas
Africa	Boko Haram in West Africa; ISIS in Libya; Al-Shabaab in Somalia; elections in Africa; women's rights in Africa; rebel groups in Congo; rapes by UN workers in Congo; endangered species poaching
Asia Pacific	China's man-made islands; North Korea's nuclear program; pollution in China/India; Chinese economic troubles; protests in India; rape cases in India; women's rights in India; democracy in Myanmar
Latin America	Zika virus in Brazil; Olympics in Brazil; Dengue outbreak in Argentina; US-Cuban relations; rising crime in Mexico; drug cartels in Mexico
Europe	Syrian refugee crisis; Britain and the EU; the conflict in Ukraine; anti-terrorism in France; protests in Kosovo
Middle East	war in Syria; aid deliveries in Syria; war in Yemen; Israel/Palestine conflict; ISIS in Iraq; tensions between Saudi Arabia & Iran; effects of Iran nuclear agreement; Russian involvement in Syria

**Description of Components:**

Topic Sheet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit your topic by Friday, March 4.</li> </ul>
Cover Sheet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include the following information: title; your name; school name; class name; date submitted.</li> <li>A sample cover sheet will be posted on the class website. (rkasforza.weebly.com)</li> </ul>
News Articles (5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All five articles must be <u>full length</u> articles that pertain to the <u>same</u> current events topic.</li> <li>Articles must be printed from the internet, NOT clipped from a newspaper.</li> <li>Articles must be printed in a font large enough for a normal human to read! Some websites have a 'print-friendly' button. Please use them.</li> <li><b>"Approved News Websites":</b> Articles <b>must</b> be from one of the following 14 "Approved News Websites": <a href="http://nytimes.com">nytimes.com</a>; <a href="http://economist.com">economist.com</a>; <a href="http://washingtonpost.com">washingtonpost.com</a>; <a href="http://pbs.org/newshour">pbs.org/newshour</a>; <a href="http://nbcnews.com">nbcnews.com</a>; <a href="http://cbsnews.com">cbsnews.com</a>; <a href="http://foxnews.com">foxnews.com</a>; <a href="http://time.com">time.com</a>; <a href="http://newsweek.com">newsweek.com</a>; <a href="http://reuters.com">reuters.com</a>; <a href="http://huffingtonpost.com">huffingtonpost.com</a>; <a href="http://bbc.com">bbc.com</a>; <a href="http://theguardian.com">theguardian.com</a>; or <a href="http://cnn.com">cnn.com</a>. You may not use any one website more than twice.</li> <li>Each article must discuss a new aspect of the topic. Do not submit five articles that say the same thing.</li> <li>Each article must clearly indicate the date and the source of the article. Highlight or write this information on the printout to make sure it is clear.</li> <li>Articles must be current (if needed, you may use <u>only one</u> recent article from earlier than March 1, 2016).</li> <li>Articles must be spaced periodically throughout the 6-week period. Don't choose 5 articles from one week.</li> <li>Articles must be submitted in chronological order.</li> </ul>

### Description of Components (continued):

Article Summaries (5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In a substantial, well-developed paragraph (at least a half-page double-spaced) summarize the content of the article in your own words. Do not quote or paraphrase the article. You must show me that you have read the article and filtered it through your own brain!</li><li>• A template will be posted on the class website (rkasforza.weebly.com).</li></ul>
Topic Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A minimum of 2 <u>full</u> pages in length, with an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion.</li><li>• A template will be posted on the class website (rkasforza.weebly.com)</li><li>• The tone of your evaluation must be <b>analytical</b>, not just descriptive. In other words, you should not just be <i>describing</i> what happened, but <i>explaining</i> how and why it happened.</li><li>• <u>Your evaluation must address the following questions:</u><ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. How (if at all) has the topic changed in the six weeks you have tracked it?</li><li>2. Why is your topic a significant issue in international affairs?</li><li>3. What is your opinion about the events that have occurred?</li><li>4. What are some comparisons or contrasts between your topic and other events/themes in world history that you have previously studied?</li></ol></li></ul>

### Format Requirements:

- Typed, black ink, white paper, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, 12-point Arial font
- Use the templates from the class website (rkasforza.weebly.com)

### Grading Rubric:

Component	Requirements for Full Credit	Points (out of 100)
Topic Selection Sheet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• submitted on time</li></ul>	5
Cover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• includes all required info</li><li>• uses the template provided on class website</li></ul>	5
Articles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• pertain to the chosen topic</li><li>• all are full-length</li><li>• printed, not clipped</li><li>• from the 14 'Approved News Websites' only</li><li>• no site used more than twice</li><li>• do not duplicate one another</li><li>• clearly labeled with source and date</li><li>• current</li><li>• spaced periodically throughout the month</li><li>• in chronological order</li></ul>	25
Article Summaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• meet format and length requirement</li><li>• uses the template provided on class website</li><li>• thoroughly summarize the article</li><li>• do not quote or paraphrase the articles</li><li>• show an understanding of the articles</li></ul>	25
Topic Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• meets format and length requirement</li><li>• uses the template provided on class website</li><li>• contains an introduction, body, and conclusion</li><li>• has an analytical tone (understanding of how &amp; why)</li><li>• addresses the four guiding questions provided</li></ul>	40