

Honors Current Events Blog Rubric

Individual Activities

PART ONE: Articles ((WEEKLY))

You will write articles in order to explain to the reader what is going on in your region of the world. Each week, you will search out a story – chosen completely by you - which falls into one of the topics listed below.

Rubric

1. 30 points *This portion of your site should include an article of 250 or more words discussing the issues below*
2. 20 points *Article should be proofread carefully*
3. 20 points *The article must be in MLA format and include a works cited.*
4. 20 points *The article includes at least TWO dependable sources.*
5. 10 points *Each article must include one photo with source.*
6. *All topics MUST be included on website.*

Family and Gender Issues-

Possible Topics Include But Are Not Limited To:

- Women's Rights
- Treatment of Children
- Children in War
- Family Norms
- Holidays and Festivities

Domestic Politics-

Possible Topics Include But Are Not Limited To:

- Elections (Local and National)
- Protests/ Political Movements
- Political Violence
- Party Issues

Foreign Affairs-

Possible Topics Include But Are Not Limited To:

- Activities within the United Nations
- Political and Security Issues
- Nuclear Proliferation
- Alliances
- Social and Humanitarian Issues

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Economy

Possible Topics Include But Are Not Limited To:

- Stock Market
- Recessions and Economic Crises
- Government involvement in economy
- Bank Activities
- Personal Savings and Investment

Religion/Culture

Possible Topics Include But Are Not Limited To:

- Religious Festivities/ Holidays
- Role of Religion in Politics
- Religious Debates/ Issues
- Legal Powers of Religious Institutions

Legal Issues

Possible Topics Include But Are Not Limited To:

- International Law (can overlap with Foreign Affairs)
- Taxation
- Consumer Law
- Family Law

Weird News

Any strange event that is funny or unusual.

PART TWO: Op Ed. – ((WEEKLY))

This should be a minimum of 250 words that responds to the assigned topic usually provided on Monday of the week.

This will be based on the primary topic that we discuss on Monday. You should include reference to at least three trustworthy sources. This should be completed in MLA.

Rubric

1. 30 points *This portion of your site should include an article of 250 or more words discussing the issue assigned at the beginning of the week.*
2. 20 points *Article should be proofread carefully*
3. 20 points *The article must be in MLA format and include a works cited.*
4. 20 points *The article includes at least THREE dependable sources.*
5. 10 points *Each article must include one photo with source.*

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Group Activities

PART THREE: This Week in Pictures- ((WEEKLY))

This portion of your site should include **ten** photos that represent the important events that have occurred in your respective region of the world with a 2 to 5 sentence synopsis explaining what is happening in the photo and its relevance.

Rubric

1. 40 points *Ten pictures are chosen that are indicative of important and interesting events in your region.*
2. 40 points *Each picture has a 2 to 5 sentence synopsis explaining what is happening in the photo and its relevance.*
3. 20 points *A url link is included with each photo giving credit to the source.*

PART FOUR: Discussion Question- ((WEEKLY))

As a group you will create a discussion question that relates to one of your articles for the week. You will post the question as a post on your blog. Each person in the group is also responsible for responding to three questions of other groups. Your response should demonstrate that you have read the appropriate article and should also include information concerning your region of the world when appropriate.

Rubric

1. 35 points *You have a thought provoking question as a post on your blog. It includes the article that it refers to and the date that it was posted.*
2. 35 points *You have responded to three other questions and posted on your blog.*
3. 40 points *Your response is thoughtful and relates to your region of the world when appropriate.*

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Culminating Activities

PART FIVE: What Happened Presentation- ((END OF 9 WEEKS))

As a group you will work to combine your stories to create a group presentation – a summary of your 9 weeks in the region of the world. Your presentation should be placed on your website in the form of a post and should last 10 to 15 minutes.

Rubric

1. 20 points *The presentation includes at least five transitions and lasts 10 to 15 minutes.*
2. 20 points *The presentation effectively describes the region of the world.*
3. 20 points *The presentation effectively describes the importance your stories politically, socially, culturally, etc.*
4. 20 points *The presentation includes four major photos relating to the synopsis.*
5. 10 points *The presentation includes a works cited page with required sources.*
6. 10 points *The group effectively answers the classes' questions following presentation.*