

Current Events Newscast

Civics Culminating Project

It's time to take the concepts you learned in class and apply them to events currently happening in the world of American politics. For this project, you will choose four current events related to the US government and cover them in a simulated "newscast."

You will form groups of 3-5 people and work together to research the four current events and then summarize and analyze them. As a group, you will be expected to explain their significance and relate each current event to at least two relevant concepts that you learned about in class. In addition, you will be expected to produce one commercial that highlights an upcoming event pertaining to American government. For example, it might highlight an aspect of the upcoming 2016 presidential election.

The newscast should be filmed and presented in video format. However, if nobody in your group has access to basic video production equipment (video camera, basic editing software, etc.), you will be allowed to do a live performance of your newscast for the class instead.

The video/presentation should last between 8-12 minutes (at least 2 minutes for each current event and at least 30 seconds for the commercial, excluding introductions and credits). Students will be expected to wear semi-professional attire and exhibit proficient presentation skills. You will also be expected to work as a group in the planning phases of the project and all contribute evenly during the presentation.

Some of the aspects that you will be graded on include:

- Attire
- Group participation
- Relevance and significance of (4) current events
- Clear correlation between current events and class concepts
- Quality of commercial
- Basic presentation skills

Remember, this is your chance to take the concepts you learned in class and apply them to real world events. I encourage you to have fun with the project! Including a little comedy in your presentation is acceptable, however, you will be graded down if the project does not include all of the basic elements. As a newscaster, it's your job to make these stories understandable to the audience. So make sure you are well prepared and choose current events that you can fully understand and easily explain.

You will be given a rubric along with this instructions sheet. The total assignment is worth 50 points. Thirty of those points will go towards the presentation and the remaining twenty will go towards your participation. Students will also be required to fill out a peer evaluation for each of their group members so make sure you're participating and putting forth some genuine effort. I look forward to your newscasts! Direct all after school questions to ericpalmer@hlpusd.k12.ca.us