

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade SOCIAL STUDIES CURRENT EVENTS

Every Wednesday for the rest of the school year will be devoted to current events. Each week one, two, or three of you will present a current event report. The following information will guide you in planning, writing and presenting your report.

#### Choosing a news article to present

If you don't already pay attention to the news, PLEASE start doing so! Why? Because in order to be an effective citizen, one must be an informed citizen. Becoming informed is easy: start listening to quality news programs on the TV or radio, read online articles in newspapers and magazines or listen to the talk at the family dinner table if you aren't already. Start thinking about potential topics that interest you.

About one week before your due date, search for a news article. A good current event article meets the following criteria:

- It is about a topic you understand and are interested in.
- It is an article you can read and understand.
- It is about a **current political, environmental, historical, economic, or social** event or issue. Good topics include, but are not limited to: Maine, U.S, or world politics, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, global warming, and the economy. Do not choose a sports event unless it has national or international significance. Do not choose a report on a crime unless you want to address a bigger issue like corporate greed or domestic violence. Also, do not choose items about celebrities. If you are unsure if the news article you are interested in is a good choice, please ask me. Also, stay away from editorials or news briefs—look for full articles.
- It is about an event that is important to your community, the state, the nation, or the world.

When you find an article that meets the above criteria, cut out or print the article. (If the news item is from a program on the TV or radio, write down the bibliographic information.) You must pass the article in with your report.

#### Writing the report

Follow the directions below and your report will meet standards.

1. At the top of your report, in addition to your name, the date, and the class period, **write the bibliographic citation in the following order:**

- The author (or editor)
- The title of the article (in quotes)
- The source [either the company, name of magazine or newspaper, the publisher, or press service] (underlined or italicized)
- The date the article was published
- The URL address if it is an online article

Here is an example of a citation for an online news article:

Patrick Quinn. "Dozens of children found in Iraq." Portland Press Herald. The Associated Press March 10, 2005. <http://pressherald.maine.com/>