

# NSL Government Summer Journal: Current Events Journal

(Points TBD)

**Due Date: September 18, 2020**

You need to find, read and respond to five articles regarding a political or legal issue in the United States. In writing your responses, you should link the article in some way to the particular topic that will be studied in class; dealing with the branches of government, foreign or public policy. The article must be from a **PRINT MEDIA** source. These articles can be news stories, opinion pieces, longer investigations or editorial columns. They may not be any older than June 20th, 2019.

In order to expose you to a diversity of ideas and political issues no more than 2 articles can be on the same topic. **Articles beyond this limit will not receive any credit.**

For our purpose here, Print Media are sources that you could buy at a newsstand or at the grocery store. This includes newspapers, magazines, or scholarly journals, things like- *Time*, *US News*, *The Economists*, *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *Washington Times*, *The Atlantic*, *Washington Post*, etc. These may be accessed online or as paper copies. **Print Media DOES NOT include NPR transcripts online, Fox News online, CNN.com, etc.** In other words, it should be from sources whose focus is **printed matter**, not broadcast journalism. If it is only on TV or the internet it is not print media. Journal entries from inappropriate sources will receive a 0.

For each article, you need to complete your response in the provided templates in **a different color**. For the analysis section, please make sure you answer the questions in complete sentences. Sentence starters have been provided for you. This assignment will be turned into Google Classroom once the school year starts. A rubric is included in this packet. Graphic organizers for each journal entry can be found below.

Your response should include:

- Your Name and Date
- Source of the article in MLA format
- A short **summary** of the article (2 or 3 sentences)
- Your **response** to the details of the article
- Your **analysis** may include answers to questions like:
  - What are the main issues brought forth?
  - What policy is being discussed?
  - How does this relate to what is taking place in government currently? Historically?
  - What point is the author trying to make? Is there a clear bias? How do you see it?
  - What do you think of the points that the author made?
  - **How does this tie into what we will cover in a government class? \*This is a must\***

**Current Events Analysis Rubric:**

<b>Mastery Standard</b>	<b>Score</b>				
<b>Completion</b> Digital Copy turned in on time, typed in a different color, MLA format to cite doc, print media	5	4	3	2	1
<b>Summary</b> Short explanation of the article. Student is able to explain the gist of the article without simply repeating everything that the article discusses.	5	4	3	2	1
<b>Analysis</b> Student analyzes the article, concentrating on examining what the author said and how they said it, rather than simply repeating the facts of the article. Student works to break apart the major ideas, showing an understanding of the article AND shows how the pieces fit together. Clearly recognizes opinion and bias, and comments on how that fits the overall tone of the article.	5	4	3	2	1
<b>Link to Current Topic</b> Student provides evidence that the issues or topics in the article are issues that will be covered in NSL Government.	5	4	3	2	1

**Score:**            /20**Comments:**

## Journal Entry 1

Name		Date	
Article Source ( <a href="#">MLA format</a> )			
Short summary of the article (2-3 sentences)	<i>This article is about...</i>		
Your response (what is your opinion of this article?)	<i>I think that...</i>		
Analysis			
What policy is being discussed?			
<i>Ultimately this article is about the policy of...</i>			
How does this relate to what is taking place in government currently? Historically?			
<i>This matters because the government...</i>			
What point is the author trying to make? Is there a clear bias? How do you see it?			
<i>When the author says...</i> <i>It tells me that they think...</i>			
What do you think of the points that the author made?			
<i>I think that the article is...</i>			
How does this tie into what we will cover in a government class? <b>*This is a must*</b>			
<i>I think this will relate to...</i>			

## Journal Entry 2

Name		Date	
Article Source ( <a href="#">MLA format</a> )			
Short summary of the article (2-3 sentences)	<i>This article is about...</i>		
Your response (what is your opinion of this article?)	<i>I think that...</i>		
Analysis			
What policy is being discussed?			
<i>Ultimately this article is about the policy of...</i>			
How does this relate to what is taking place in government currently? Historically?			
<i>This matters because the government...</i>			
What point is the author trying to make? Is there a clear bias? How do you see it?			
<i>When the author says...</i>  <i>It tells me that they think...</i>			
What do you think of the points that the author made?			
<i>I think that the article is...</i>			
How does this tie into what we will cover in a government class? <b>*This is a must*</b>			
<i>I think this will relate to...</i>			

### Journal Entry 3

Name		Date	
Article Source ( <a href="#">MLA format</a> )			
Short summary of the article (2-3 sentences)	<i>This article is about...</i>		
Your response (what is your opinion of this article?)	<i>I think that...</i>		
Analysis			
What policy is being discussed?			
<i>Ultimately this article is about the policy of...</i>			
How does this relate to what is taking place in government currently? Historically?			
<i>This matters because the government...</i>			
What point is the author trying to make? Is there a clear bias? How do you see it?			
<i>When the author says...</i> <i>It tells me that they think...</i>			
What do you think of the points that the author made?			
<i>I think that the article is...</i>			
How does this tie into what we will cover in a government class? <b>*This is a must*</b>			
<i>I think this will relate to...</i>			

## Journal Entry 4

Name		Date	
Article Source ( <a href="#">MLA format</a> )			
Short summary of the article (2-3 sentences)	<i>This article is about...</i>		
Your response (what is your opinion of this article?)	<i>I think that...</i>		
Analysis			
What policy is being discussed?			
<i>Ultimately this article is about the policy of...</i>			
How does this relate to what is taking place in government currently? Historically?			
<i>This matters because the government...</i>			
What point is the author trying to make? Is there a clear bias? How do you see it?			
<i>When the author says...</i>  <i>It tells me that they think...</i>			
What do you think of the points that the author made?			
<i>I think that the article is...</i>			
How does this tie into what we will cover in a government class? <b>*This is a must*</b>			
<i>I think this will relate to...</i>			

## Journal Entry 5

Name		Date	
Article Source ( <a href="#">MLA format</a> )			
Short summary of the article (2-3 sentences)	<i>This article is about...</i>		
Your response (what is your opinion of this article?)	<i>I think that...</i>		
Analysis			
What policy is being discussed?			
<i>Ultimately this article is about the policy of...</i>			
How does this relate to what is taking place in government currently? Historically?			
<i>This matters because the government...</i>			
What point is the author trying to make? Is there a clear bias? How do you see it?			
<i>When the author says...</i> <i>It tells me that they think...</i>			
What do you think of the points that the author made?			
<i>I think that the article is...</i>			
How does this tie into what we will cover in a government class? <b>*This is a must*</b>			
<i>I think this will relate to...</i>			