

Morning Meetings and Current Events - Guidelines and Rubric

In this class, we will start class ~3 times a week with a “morning meeting” to discuss current events in the environmental world. Keeping up to date on current news not only refines your scientific mind, but also prepares you for the real world. Each of you will pick an environmental (or other related scientific) current event to research **once a week**. You may listen to a TED talk, read a newspaper or magazine article, read an online article, watch a Discovery/Animal Planet/History/BBC documentary, or read a piece from a scientific journal. The information should be relatively current (2016-present will be fine - I want you to find something that really interests you). Any source other than the above MUST be verified by me first! **You will each TYPE/PRINT OR LEGIBLY WRITE a one page report of the current event. This one page write up must include**

- The title of the article/video/documentary/etc. and how you accessed the information so I can look it up to verify
- A summary of the event, research, project, discovery, etc.
- The impact you think this might have on the world, environment, society, etc.
- A definition or explanation of **one word/term** in the article you did not initially know or understand
- A connection to our class or other subject you have learned about in school
- Your opinion of the event

Within your groups, you will self-assign who will present their report on which day. Working on this will be a continual homework assignment for you and it will be your responsibility to be prepared on your assigned day. Forgetting or not being prepared will impact the whole class and your grade will suffer because of it!

On your assigned day, you will be expected to

- Read your report aloud to your group
- Answer your group’s questions regarding the report, to the best of your knowledge
- Generate discussion within your group regarding your research

Each group will be expected to

- Discuss, debate, and question the information presented
- Actively take notes as the presenter speaks. **Your notes will be collected at the end of each morning meeting and will constitute a portion of your grade!**

Your work will be graded by the following rubric

Score Area	0	1	2	3
Typed or neatly written one page report is ready on your assigned day	Not present	The report is significantly less than a page; is typed but not printed; is written sloppily	The report is almost a full page, typed and printed, or written in neat handwriting	The report is one full page, typed and printed, or written in neat handwriting
Title and how you accessed the information	Not present	One component of a 3 is missing, and the aspect you did provide is not thorough	One component of a 3 is missing, and the aspect you did provide is thorough	The full title is written along with brief description on how to access the information
Summary	Not present	The summary is too short; insubstantial evidence you researched the event thoroughly	The summary is good but less than 6 sentences; or not as thoughtful as it could be; or not an entire summary of the event	The summary is excellent, and at least 6 descriptive, complete sentences. You put time and effort into researching and summarizing the event entirely
Impact	Not present	You included 1-2 sentences describing the impact which shows weak critical thinking on the event	You included 1-2 sentences describing the impacts of this event, in a way that shows you thought about it critically	You included at least 2 sentences describing the impacts of this event, showing that you thought critically about it and strengthened your world view

Definition or explanation	Not present	The definition or explanation you included is erroneous	You included a definition or explanation; however, however it was not complete	You included a complete definition or explanation of one word/term you did not understand
Connection	Not present	The connection you made is unrelated or hastily made	You attempted to make a good connection, but did not thoroughly describe it	You made a solid connection between our class/other classes/things you already know with the current event. Your connection widens the impact of the current event
Opinion	Not present	You included an opinion such as "I liked the article", and did not spend much time thinking about it	You included your opinion, but it was not as sincere or thoughtful as a 3	You included at least one really thoughtful opinion on the current event.
Contribution to group discussion	Not present	You listened but did not contribute	You listened to the discussion and contributed somewhat to the discussion	You actively contributed to the group discussion by asking questions, providing feedback, debating, etc.
Notes you took on other group members' reports	Not present	Your notes are not on time/are sloppy/are incomplete	You handed in your notes but may have been incomplete/short/sloppy	You took neat, thorough notes on the other members' reports in your group and handed them in one time
Total Score:				/21