

Lesson Plan #10
Current Events

Subject: Social Studies

Grade Level: 7-12

Classroom Description: Approximately 25 students of various genders and abilities

Topic: Current events are important in the social studies classroom because history is being written every day. The news of today will affect students into their adult lives. Students should read current events so that they may

Amount of Time Allowed for Lesson: 40 minutes

New York State Learning Standard(s): 1-United States History

National Educational Technology Standards: 1-Creativity and Innovation, 3-Research and Information Fluency, 4-Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, and Decision Making, 6-Technology Operations and Concepts

Objective: The purpose of this lesson is to allow students to analyze world events and apply them to their personal lives.

- Students will be able to research current events through reputable national newspapers
- Students will be able to critic various news organizations to find credible sources for world events
- Students will be able to interpret world events to better understand United States position and their role in world affairs

Materials: Computer Lab, Internet, White Board/Markers, Current Events Worksheets

Anticipatory Set: The students will walk into the classroom and see a short primary source video showing a run on a paper truck and the ensuing fight when the newsboys cannot get their papers fast enough. The video can be accessed by clicking on the following link:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJ5_zvxy6Lg&feature=related

The teacher will ask the students why people would be so excited to get a newspaper one hundred years ago. The teacher will ask the students why people do not get as excited about newspapers anymore. The teacher will lead the class in a discussion on the possibility of print materials becoming obsolete and the importance of current events in their lives.

Introduction: The teacher will begin the lesson by showing the students different national newspapers such as the Washington Post, the New York Times, and the USA Today. The teacher will lead the students in a discussion concerning credible sources by using such papers as the National Enquirer, the World Weekly News, and other tabloids to illustrate the type of sources they should avoid when looking for credible sources. The students will be invited to review

credible sources on the Internet. They will consider some of the major world events happening today and they will report what they learn on the current event worksheets. The teacher may use the Monroe Fordham Regional History Center to conduct personal research on primary source newspapers as an example of newspapers in history. Go to the following link to discover what primary source newspapers are available at the center:

http://www.monroefordham.org/collection_index.html

Procedure: The students will be using the Internet to view national newspapers' Web sites. They will discover current events located within the papers and complete their current events worksheets.

1. Have the students view any or all of the following national newspaper Web sites:

<http://www.usatoday.com/>

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

<http://www.nytimes.com/>

<http://www.buffalonews.com/>

<http://online.wsj.com/home-page>

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/>

2. The students should complete their current events worksheets.

The teacher will walk around the room keeping the students on task and trouble-shooting any potential problems.

Web site name(s) and address(es):

<http://www.usatoday.com/>

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

<http://www.nytimes.com/>

<http://www.buffalonews.com/>

<http://online.wsj.com/home-page>

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=McwmlAMr6I&feature=related>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJ5_zvxy6Lg&feature=related

http://www.monroefordham.org/collection_index.html

Integration of computer technology: Technology will be integrated by student discovery of current events utilizing national newspapers via the Web sites listed above.

Special accommodation(s) for at-risk, special education, gifted: Extended time allotted per individual student IEP. Gifted students may wish to further their research by viewing the following Web site to view the history of the newspaper:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=McwmlAMr6I&feature=related>

Assessment: Students will be assessed based upon their participation in the classroom activity and discussion. Students will be assessed based upon the completion of the current events worksheet with an emphasis on the following criteria:

- All questions answered with accuracy based upon the information found in the national newspapers Web sites
- Structure and neatness

Closure: The teacher will end the lesson by saying, “Today we viewed current events from national newspapers. We discovered how to tell the difference between credible news sources, and we differentiated between local and national news. I want you to think about how the media can be biased, or put a spin on a particular story. How would you feel if a newspaper sensationalized a news piece about you? Should you believe everything you read or hear?”

Transition to next lesson: The teacher will prepare for a smooth transition to the next lesson by creating a “teachable moment” that includes the opportunity for the students to engage in a discussion concerning their observations. The students will be invited to share their findings via a classroom discussion.

Extensions/homework: The students should complete their current events worksheets at home.

Lesson Plan References:

<http://www.usatoday.com/>

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

<http://www.nytimes.com/>

<http://www.buffalonews.com/>

<http://online.wsj.com/home-page>

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=McwmlAMr6I&feature=related>

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Name _____ Date _____

Current Events

Directions: Use the Web sites provided by your teacher to research current events. Answer the following questions based on your research.

Name of Newspaper _____

Title of Article _____

Author _____

Article URL _____

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Would this newspaper be considered a national or local newspaper? _____

Why is this article significant to our study of history? _____

Relate this article to a past historical event _____

How will the information in this article affect us in the future? _____

What are your thoughts and opinions on this information provided in this article? _____

