**CURRENT EVENTS WEEKLY JOURNAL ENTRIES**

In order to be an informed citizen and participant in democracy, it is vital to stay up-to-date with current events. You will submit a **weekly journal entry** after researching national media outlets to find stories of political and global importance. Refer to the guidelines below for each entry.

* Locate a news article from a legitimate news source (CNN, FOX, BBC, New York Times, Politico, NPR, etc.) The article must focus on a **political theme** – avoid editorials, blogs, sports pages, satire, and local “small-scale” news
* Read the article and gain an understanding of the story or issue
* Complete a typed journal entry **according to the template** below. Your entry **MUST FOLLOW** the below template exactly
* Journal entries are due **EVERY FRIDAY** and may be submitted digitally or as a printed hard-copy

This is a template. Each entry in the current events log must be typed according to the following format.

Each entry should be double-spaced and 12-point font

Name Date

Government Current Events Journal Entry #

1. Source Information:
   1. Article Headline
   2. Author’s Name:
   3. Name of Publication (Source):
   4. Date of Publication:
   5. If this was an Internet source, copy and paste the url:
2. Theme of the current event - can be more than one
   1. Legislative Branch (Congress)
   2. Executive Branch (The President)
   3. Judicial Branch (The Courts)
   4. Political Parties
   5. The Economy/Taxation
   6. Foreign Policy/International Issues
   7. The Constitution/Civil Rights
   8. Domestic Issues
3. Summarize the article in detail! Give the reader the basic information required to understand the current event issue. (Who? What? Where? When? Why? How?)
4. Give your own thoughts and opinions on the article. What do you think about the topic/issue being discussed? Why is the topic/issue news-worthy?
5. Find the **same news story** from a **DIFFERENT news source**. Identify the source, then compare the articles. What bias do you detect in each article? How are the headlines similar/different? Has your opinion about the topic/issue changed?

**EXAMPLE JOURNAL ENTRY**

Mr. Fitzgibbons 8/12/19

Government Current Events Journal Entry #1

1. Source Information
   1. Headline: “Trump administration boosts ability to deny green cards to immigrants using welfare programs”
   2. Author’s Name: Adam Shaw
   3. Source: FOX News
   4. Date of Publication: 8/12/19
   5. <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-administration-green-cards-immigrants>
2. Theme of Current Event
   1. Domestic Issues – Immigration
3. Today, President Trump’s administration issued a policy impacting immigration in the United States. The policy concerns green cards, or permits that let immigrants live and work in the United States. Under the policy, US Citizenship and Immigration Services will now consider an immigrant’s likelihood to need public assistance when determining whether or not to give them a green card. The US government will now consider an immigrant’s age, health, finances, level of education, and any past use of welfare programs when deciding whether to issue or reissue a green card. The Trump administration says that this policy is about saving taxpayer dollars and preventing immigrants from abusing government assistance in the USA.
4. I think that this is a complicated issue. I definitely see the argument that non-US citizens should not receive benefits paid for by US taxpayers and the US government. However, green card holders often live in the US and pay taxes. I could understand preventing illegal or undocumented immigrants who don’t pay taxes from getting benefits paid for by US taxpayers, but green card holders often pay the same taxes as everyone else in America. Maybe they should be allowed to get the same benefits as US citizens.
5. I found the same story on CNN with the headline “Trump admin announces rule that could limit legal immigration.”

There is definitely a difference in the way the issue is presented by FOX and CNN. FOX News focuses on the abuse of welfare programs by immigrants to the United States. It even uses the phrase “welfare programs” right in the headline, a phrase that usually has a negative connotation. The FOX article also talks about how the Trump policy is actually a continuation of a policy adopted way back in 1999, showing that it wasn’t just Trump who wanted to crack down on immigrants’ use of welfare programs in the US. Finally, the FOX article says that Democrats and immigration rights groups will likely oppose the policy. This shows that the issue is already being seen as controversial and divisive. FOX stresses the idea that the policy is being used to encourage self-sufficiency for all Americans and immigrants.

The CNN headline gives the idea that Trump now wants to limit legal immigration, something he has always denied. CNN stresses the idea that the policy will target low income immigrants who may need extra help from welfare programs. This makes the reader think that Trump is not only anti-immigrant, but also doesn’t care about low-income families. CNN also featured a quote from Beto O’Rourke, who’s running for the Democrat Party’s Presidential nomination. O’Rourke said “If you’re an immigrant, Trump believes you have no place in this country – even though immigrants have made America the greatest nation the world has ever known.”

Overall, FOX News definitely focuses on the fact that the Trump policy will save taxpayer dollars and crack down on people abusing the welfare system. CNN, on the other hand, focuses more on the fact that this policy targets immigrants, a group that President Trump has long been accused of opposing. FOX definitely seems to favor Trump in this article while CNN opposes the policy and the President overall.

CNN article: <https://www.cnn.com/2019/08/12/politics/legal-immigration-public-charge/index.html>