**Current Events Research Project**

Mr. Collison

Contemporary Affairs (2014-2015)

*Contemporary Affairs is a current events based course where we discuss and study major issues and events going on in the world today. This project will get us up to speed on what’s going on in the world so we can have informed discussions about the topics that impact our lives.*

**Overview:** Working in groups of no more than ***four***, you will be researching one of the major events/topics of the last 6 months and creating a presentation informing your classmates on the important background and developments. The presentations should be 5-10 minutes long, and the closer to 10 minutes you are the better. As a group you will sign up for one of the topics below:

* Crisis in the Ukraine
* Fighting in the Gaza Strip (ISIS)
* Violence Ferguson, Missouri (Racism in America or cops with weapons)
* Ebola outbreak (Impact and should we be worried?)
* Head injuries in sports ($70 Billion dollar settlement by NCAA)
* Washington Redskins Team Name (Native American treatment in US)
* Government Surveillance (You’ll have to find relevant news on this)
* MH17 Plane crash and new report
* Anything else approved by Mr. Collison

**Format:** Your presentation should be in the form of a PowerPoint or other presentation tool such as Prezi. VISUALS, pictures, video clips, etc. all make your presentation more engaging and interesting for your classmates. Think about what kind of presentation YOU would be interested in if you were sitting in the chair.

**What to include in your presentation and research:**

*Your research should include multiple sources.*

* Background knowledge:
  + Who are the major people involved?
  + Where is this event taking place, or where did the major events take place? (Map should be included)
  + What is the history of the area, or the issue?
* Summary of the event, major events, or topic.
* Important statistics regarding your topic.
* Why this is a major event? What’s the large scale impact?
* Are there two sides to the issue? What are both sides of the argument?
* What do you think will happen in the future regarding your topic?

***This will count as your first QUIZ grade of the year, and two classwork grades for your participation and cooperation in the library.***

***Rubric***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Category/pts | Excellent  10 | Good  8-9 | Fair  6-7 | Poor  1-5 | Comments |
| Accuracy of Topic Information – 10pts |  |  |  |  | The information you present is accurate and up-to-date |
| Sources – 10pts |  |  |  |  | A mixture of three or more valid sources cited at the end of your presentation. They should not all be a similar source (ie. 3 newspapers) Use newspaper, websites, books, magazines, newscasts, etc. A variety will help. |
| Research Notes – 10pts |  |  |  |  | Show me that you did more than just browse a page of reading. Aim for at least 1 full page of notes (organized - rewrite if you have to) that you used to help enhance your presentation. If some of your research sources had a bias, be sure to share your awareness of that in your notes. |
| Presentation – 30pts |  |  |  |  | 5-10 minutes in length and you were clearly prepared. Visual aids were interesting and a quick, precise read. Presentation was appealing to the audience. You were able to educate and engage them in your presentation. |
| TOTALS |  |  |  |  |  |

***Presenters:***

***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/50***