

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES 1: NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Course Description

This course will explore current national issues and how they affect society. Students will develop their critical thinking skills as they explore topics including the death penalty, obesity, and immigration. Throughout the course, students will have ample opportunities to develop and further their knowledge of these topics, as well as discuss their own ideas, opinions, beliefs, and solutions. As a culminating activity, the students will complete an independent inquiry project on the national topic of their choice.

Prerequisite

None

Credit Requirement Area

Social Studies

Learning Objectives

- Students will investigate and analyze controversial topics and gather appropriate factual evidence from both sides of the topic.
- Students will compare the point of view of two or more authors and analyze how they view the same issue.
- Students will communicate their opinion on controversial topics and national problems in formal writing.
- Students will generate and evaluate solutions to current national problems.
- Students will evaluate information from multiple sources to address a question or solve a problem.

Suggested Weekly Schedule

Week	Graded Activities	Suggested Due Date	% Points
1	Assignment 1: Fact vs Opinion	Monday of Week 1	20%
	Assignment 2: Problem Solving Skills Practice 1 - Social Media	Tuesday of Week 1	20%
	Assignment 3: Problem Solving Skills Practice 2 - Homeless	Wednesday of Week 1	20%
	Assignment 4: Evidence Practice 1 - Sports	Thursday of Week 1	20%
	Assignment 5: Evidence Practice 2 - Smoking	Friday of Week 1	20%
Week 1 Total Percentage Towards Final Grade			16.6%
2	Assignment 1: Death Penalty Pre-Read	Monday of Week 2	20%
	Assignment 2: Death Penalty Debate Article Questions	Tuesday of Week 2	20%
	Assignment 3: Death Penalty Pro Con Worksheet	Wednesday of Week 2	20%
	Assignment 4: Death Penalty Further Exploration	Thursday of Week 2	20%

Week	Graded Activities	Suggested Due Date	% Points
	Assignment 5: Death Penalty Position Paper	Friday of Week 2	20%
Week 2 Total Percentage Towards Final Grade			16.6%
3	Assignment 1: Obesity Pre-Read	Monday of Week 3	20%
	Assignment 2: 5 W's of Obesity	Tuesday of Week 3	20%
	Assignment 3: Obesity Problem Identification	Wednesday of Week 3	20%
	Assignment 4: Obesity Problem Solutions	Thursday of Week 3	20%
	Assignment 5: Obesity Letter to the Editor	Friday of Week 3	20%
Week 3 Total Percentage Towards Final Grade			16.6%
4	Assignment 1: Immigration Pre-Read	Monday of Week 4	25%
	Assignment 2: Immigration Article Questions	Tuesday of Week 4	25%
	Assignment 3: Immigration Solutions Evaluation	Thursday of Week 4	25%
	Assignment 4: Immigration Letter to the Editor	Friday of Week 4	25%
Week 4 Total Percentage Towards Final Grade			16.6%
5	Assignment 1: Inquiry Questions Worksheet	Wednesday of Week 5	50%
	Assignment 2: Website Evaluation Worksheet	Friday of Week 5	50%
Week 5 Total Percentage Towards Final Grade			16.6%
6	Final Inquiry Project	Friday of Week 6	100%
Week 6 Total Percentage Towards Final Grade			17%
WEIGHTED TOTAL			100%