***Current Issues***

***Ms. Wolf***

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***Lap 1: Politics of the USA***

**Essential Question:**

How does our Government function?

How does the media impact politics and government?

**Late Assignments from Lap 1**

Are all due by the last class day on Lap 2.

Failure to turn in late or missing work by the last class day on Lap 2 will result in a zero for that particular assignment – no exceptions.

***Overview***

A study of current events is essential for good citizenship. This is the most common justification for its place in school curricula. Sometimes advocates of current events hope merely to promote national identity and loyalty through a version spiced by vivid stories and lessons in individual success and morality. But the importance of current events for citizenship goes beyond this narrow goal and can even challenge it at some points.

Studying current events helps lay the foundation for genuine citizenship returns, in one sense, to the essential uses of the study of the past and present. Current events provides data about the emergence of national institutions, problems, and values—it's the only significant storehouse of such data available. It offers evidence also about how nations have interacted with other societies, providing international and comparative perspectives essential for responsible citizenship. Further, studying current events helps us understand how recent, current, and prospective changes that affect the lives of citizens are emerging or may emerge and what causes are involved. More important, studying history encourages habits of mind that are vital for responsible public behavior, whether as a national or community leader, an informed voter, a petitioner, or a simple observer.

***Rationale***

Before understanding the current issues within the world, we must first take a step back and understand how our government is formed, its powers and limitations, and how the media impacts the way we see our government. By having a strong understanding of how our society works, we can begin to understand the similarities and differences of governments throughout the world.

***Essential Question and Learning Goals:***

**How does our Government function?**

**How does the media impact politics and government?**

1. **Describe** the foundation of our government
2. **Analyze** the influence of media and media bias and describe the impact of media on our society.
3. **Formulate** a debate on a current event of the class’ choosing

***Lap 1 Summative Assessment***

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| **Essential Question:**  **How might an understanding of psychology help us in our lives today and in the future? Why is it important to respect the discipline of psychology?** | |
| Your summative assessment for this Lap will be a multiple choice, matching, and true/false style test.  To be successful on your Lap 1 summative assessment be sure and familiarize yourself with the following topics:   * Vocabulary terms * Political party trends * The election process * Media Bias/Fact checking * Current Events occurring throughout the LAP * Your own answers to the EQs   Your test will be around 40 questions, there may be more questions or less. | **Test**  **will be**  **taken**  **in class**  **on**  **8/31**  **B** |

***Enrichment***

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| **Movies that involve various types of psychology.** | |
| Watch a news talk show and write a one page summary of the following:   1. *What events were discussed?* 2. *The tone of the talk show(how did the host react, their thoughts on the issues)*? 3. *After researching the topic on your own, were there any discrepancies from the “truth”?* 4. *Your thoughts/opinions on the main event discussed?* 5. *What is something new that you learned? (could be a term, information, etc.)* | **Due:**  **8/31 B** |

***Calendar of Events***

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| **Day 1** | |
| **Friday, 8/17- B Day**   1. **Due at class time** – Nothing at this time. 2. **What we are doing today** – Go over Lap. Introduction of Current Issues. Begin discussion over the three branches of Government and Political Parties. 3. **Homework** – On the Weebly site watch the short video titled “***How a Bill Becomes a Law***” and “***How the Electoral College Works”***. After finishing the video in your notebook write down five questions you have about the law making process and the Electoral College. All you have to do is write the questions. We will go through the questions next class. | **Due:**  **8/22 E** |
| **Day 2** | |
| **Day 2: Wednesday, 8/22- F Day**   1. **Due at class time** – Discussion of the video. Questions. 2. **What we are doing today** – Review of questions asked. Notes over the Election process. 3. **Homework** – In a brief description explain to me in your own words what the function of the Electoral College is. Next, in 5 – 6 well constructed sentences explain why you think Electoral College does or does not function well. Prepare to back up your opinion with evidence gathered from your own research. Turn in on Google Classroom.   **Bring a copy of your answers to class and be ready to discuss your reasoning** | **Due: 8/23 F** |
| **Day 3** | |
| **Day 3: Thursday, 8/23- F Day**   1. **Due at class time** –Be ready to discuss your opinions on the Electoral College. Have your paragraphs with you. 2. **What we are doing today** –Wrap up the election process and Electoral College. 3. **Assignment for next time** – In 5**-**10 sentences, answer this question on Google Classroom: Some citizens believe that the Electoral College is outdated and that we should only elect government members via popular vote. *Do you agree with this? Yes/No and why*.   Print off notes on News Bias and analyzing sources and look them over. | **Due: 8/24**  **G** |
| **Day 4** | |
| **Day 4: Friday, 8/24- G Day**   1. **Due at class time** –Printed out notes on News Bias 2. **What we are doing today** –Discuss News and Media Bias. Begin Analyzing Sources Worksheet. 3. **Assignment for next time** – Analyzing Sources Worksheet. Read the article titled “Media Bias Article” on the weebly, answer 1 of the questions at the bottom of the article. | **Due: 8/28 J** |
| **Day 5** | |
| **Day 5: Tuesday, 8/28- J Day**   1. **Due at class time** – Analyzing Sources Worksheet. 2. **What we are doing today** – Discuss how to compare and contrast sources to find true facts. Practice looking for media bias. 3. **Assignment for next time** – Complete Review for summative. Find the craziest news headline of this week and write a brief 5 sentence summary of the article. | **Due:**  **8/29 K** |
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| **Day 6: Wednesday, 8/29- K Day**   1. **Due at class time** – Review sheet for summative. 2. **What are we doing today** – In class review and discussion 3. **Assignment for next time** – Summative next class | **Due:**  **8/31**  **B** |
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**UP Next… Revolution!**