

History in the News Assignment

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You will submit this assignment via Turnitin.com.

Our Class ID number is: **on your Paper 1 handout**

Our Enrollment Password is: **history**

Due date (via Turnitin.com):

See the Syllabus.

You are welcome to submit them early.

Purpose:

One of the things I would like you to get out of this class is a sense of historical context and how that context shapes the world in which we live. Think about it as “the past of the present.”

Directions:

1. Provide the title and a link to the article you’ve chosen at the top of the page. It should NOT be one I’ve already covered in class.
2. Summarize the article in a few sentences.
3. For the majority of the assignment, explain how what you’ve learned in class or in the textbook helped you to better understand the article. In other words, connect it to the class with specific examples from the course materials.

Here are some examples of questions you might ask yourself:
How do our course materials help me understand the context (background) of this news story? How are the events described in the story related to a topic we’ve studied in class? How might an understanding of history change the outcome of the events described in the story?

The assignment should be around 300-400 words, typed and double-spaced.

News Sources:

I must admit, part of the point of the assignment is to get you to engage with the news if you're not doing so already, so the most organic way to do this is just check the news every day and keep your eyes peeled and ears tuned. As backup, here are a few suggestions for news sources that have reporters out in the field. You do not have to use one from this list. If you have any doubts about your news source, run it past me.

Local newspapers, of course: *The Ottumwa Courier*, *Oskaloosa Herald*, *Fairfield Ledger*, *Daily Iowegian*, *Bloomfield Democrat*, *Albia News*, etc.

Associated Press

Reuters <http://www.reuters.com/>

Google News

History News Network: <http://historynewsnetwork.org>

National Public Radio www.npr.org

The Christian Science Monitor <http://www.csmonitor.com/>

BBC World News

The Guardian (UK) www.guardian.co.uk

The New York Times <http://www.nytimes.com/>

The Washington Post <https://www.washingtonpost.com/>

Foreign Policy <http://foreignpolicy.com>

I don't recommend the History Channel (www.history.com) because it's not a news source.

Sources

Besides the news article, you should really only use your class notes and textbook. The point of the assignment is to demonstrate that you can apply what you're learning in class to the news articles. Cite all your sources. MLA or APA is fine. Chicago Style is standard for history, but frankly, it's fairly complex and not something you'll use again unless you become a history major. Google "Purdue OWL citation" for an explanation of citation styles. *Do NOT use Wikipedia.*