

Contemporary US Issues (04106)

Fall 2011

Instructor: Mrs. Yolanda Price

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Text: NONE

Description: The course will focus on a detailed look at the monuments, buildings, museums, etc. to be toured during the 2011-2012 Close-Up Trip to Washington, DC.

Goal: Each day while in Washington, DC the students will be exposed to a variety of current topics, government including the senate and congress, workshops, memorials, etc.; prior to our departure the students will immerse themselves in order to be knowledgeable of all the below.

Objective #1: 3 Faces of Democracy

Jefferson, Lincoln, FDR Memorials
African-American Civil War Memorial

Objective #2: U.S. Role in Global World

WWII, Korean, Vietnam Memorials
Global Policy
Mock Congress

Objective #3: Capitol Hill Day

Congress Members
Supreme Court & Library of Congress

Objective #4: Discover DC

Self-exploration
Smithsonian

Objective #5: The Big Apple

Central Park
Times Square
Broadway Show

Objective #6: The Big Apple

Liberty & Ellis Island
Ground Zero
Lower East Side/Chinatown
"Top of the Rock"

Upon arrival the focus will be on helping students develop the attitudes and skills needed to be informed and engaged citizens. Close-Up features DC as a living classroom, peer-to-peer learning, seminars with policy experts and even meetings in Congress.

Requirements: Students will be responsible to complete projects (photo story, power point, research paper, wiki page, demonstration/poster board, flyer, etc.) based on the topics above. There will be nine projects required during the first 2 quarters. See Rubric for specific details.

Resources: internet resources including the SD library, the Drudge Report, SIRS, www.realclearpolitics.com, www.theweek.com

See Mrs. Price for the following texts: Know Your America, The American Spirit, The American Pageant

Evaluation: See Rubric

Additional Requirements: Students will choose a topic from each of the 6 objectives for 6 of their projects; the other 3 will be focused on liberal and conservative views based on current issues facing the US. Students will then choose the type of project; each type of project must be used at least once within the 9 projects.

Topics	Project Type
Objective #1: 3 Faces of Democracy Jefferson Memorial Lincoln Memorial FDR Memorial African-American Civil War Memorial Objective #2: U.S. Role in Global World World War II Memorial Korean Memorial Vietnam Memorial Global Policy Mock Congress Objective #3: Capitol Hill Day Congress Members Supreme Court Library of Congress Objective #4: Discover DC White House Kennedy Center Washington Monument Arlington National Cemetery Georgetown Iwo Jima Holocaust Museum Museum of American History Mount Vernon Any Smithsonian Changing of Guard/Tomb of Unknown Soldier Objective #5: The Big Apple Central Park Times Square Broadway Show Statue of Liberty United Nations Objective #6: The Big Apple Liberty & Ellis Island Ground Zero Lower East Side/Chinatown “Top of the Rock” Wall Street LAST Projects Liberal/Conservative Pick 3 current issues in DC/NY & debate both a conservative view & liberal view in 3 separate projects	Movie Maker (6 slide minimum) Power point (6 slide minimum) Research paper (2pg; 12pt; 1” margins) Wiki page Demonstration Poster Flyer (2-sided tri-fold) Timeline (at least 10 events) Other types approved by Mrs. Price In EVERY project try to answer the questions: WHO? WHAT? WHEN? WHY? HOW? Include fun facts, pictures, music, mini clips, sources, etc.

Contemporary US Issues Rubric

Score	Content	Conventions	Organization	Presentation
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is well thought out and supports the topic or question Reflects application of critical thinking Is pulled from a variety of sources Is accurate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No spelling, grammatical or punctuation errors High level use of vocabulary and word choice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information is clearly focused in an organized and thoughtful manner Information is constructed in a logical pattern to support the topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multimedia is used to clarify and illustrate the main points Format enhances the content Presentation captures audience attention Presentation is organized and well laid out
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is well thought out and supports the topic or question Application of critical thinking is apparent Is pulled from several sources Is accurate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Few (1-3) spelling, grammatical or punctuation errors Good use of vocabulary and word choice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information supports the topic or question 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multimedia is used to illustrate main points Format is appropriate for the content Presentation captures audience attention Presentation is well organized
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports the topic Application of critical thinking is apparent Is pulled from a limited number of sources Has some factual errors or inconsistencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimal (3-5) spelling, grammatical, or punctuation errors Low level use of vocabulary and word choice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project has a focus but might stray from it at times Information appears to have a pattern, but the pattern is not consistently carried out in the project Information loosely supports the topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multimedia loosely illustrates the main points Format does not suit the content Presentation does not capture audience attention Presentation is loosely organized
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides inconsistent information for the topic Has no apparent application of critical thinking Information pulled from few sources Has significant factual errors, misconceptions, or misinterpretations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 5 spelling, grammatical, or punctuation errors Poor use of vocabulary and word choice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Content is unfocused and haphazard Information does not support the solution to the challenge or question Information has no apparent pattern 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation appears sloppy and/or unfinished Multimedia is overused or underused Format does not enhance content Presentation has not clear organization