

Research Assignment Summer 2011

The goal of this course is to raise awareness about current events and their connections to the domestic and international political scenes. Understanding the American government's position on an issue and its involvement to resolve it as a member of the international community are key components of our program. Events that take place around the world have a ripple effect as many nations often look to our government to set the tone and make decisions regarding an eventual intervention, whether on a humanitarian, diplomatic or military level. President Obama's reaction to the current events in North Africa and the Middle East is a perfect example of our international involvement. Our country has always supported efforts to spread democracy. However, there is controversy as to whether we should be involved in helping current revolutionaries bring down their long term dictators.

1. Expectations

- Read the two articles selected from the *Opposing Viewpoints in Contexts* series from the Library Media Center GALE database.
- Find the thesis of each paper
- Highlight/underline the main arguments of each viewpoint and write them in your own words.
- Choose one of the following countries and research the current situation: Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Yemen, Bahrain, Syria, and Palestinian Authority. You may want to use reliable websites such as BBC News Country Profiles or CIA World Factbook
 - http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/country_profiles/default.stm
 - <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>
- Based on that information and the articles you read, formulate your own opinion as to whether the US should get involved and why

2. Research Paper Format

- Heading (name, class and date) and title
- Typed, double spaced, Time News Roman 12 font, 1 inch margins
- Three to five pages long (not counting sources page)
- Answer ALL questions clearly and concisely (NO cutting and pasting of readings as that would be *plagiarism*, but you can use short quotations)

3. Paper Sections

1. *Introduction*: definition of democracy; presentation of each viewpoint; thesis statement (your personal position).
2. *First section*: analysis of the first article. List the main arguments, use quotes and facts that support this viewpoint.
3. *Second section*: analysis of the second article. List the main arguments, use quotes and facts that support this viewpoint.
4. *Third section*: highlights of the situation in the country you chose and arguments for or against US involvement.
5. *Conclusion*: summary of main arguments and personal reflection on the issue.
6. *Sources page*: any source you may have used in your research; must be in MLA or APA format (see Library Media Center)

4. Grading Rubric

<i>TASKS</i>	<i>Somewhat</i>	<i>Mostly</i>	<i>Definitely</i>	<i>Above and beyond</i>
Paper follows required format	14	16	18	20
Analysis of articles is in depth and demonstrates thoroughness	14	16	18	20
Country information is substantive and well researched	14	16	18	20
Reflection shows student's ability to evaluate research information	14	16	18	20
Paper has been proofread for spelling and grammar	4	6	8	10
Source page is included and follows MLA or APA format	4	6	8	10
<i>TOTAL</i>				/100

5. Follow Up

- a. We will be discussing the situation in the Middle East the second day of class.
- b. You will be expected to update the information on your country during the course of the semester.

6. Articles on the web - www.tufsd.org Library Media Center

GALE Opposing Viewpoints in Context - *password: empirelink*

a. Kaplan, Robert D. *The United States should not Promote Democracy in the Middle East*
<http://ic.galegroup.com/ic/ovic/ViewpointsDetailsPage/ViewpointsDetailsWindow?displayGroupName=Viewpoints&disableHighlighting=false&prodId=OVIC&action=e&windowstate=normal&catId=&documentId=GALE%7CEJ3010229265&mode=view>

b. Bush, George W. *Spreading Democracy Overseas will Enhance US Security*
<http://ic.galegroup.com/ic/ovic/ViewpointsDetailsPage/ViewpointsDetailsWindow?displayGroupName=Viewpoints&disableHighlighting=false&prodId=OVIC&action=e&windowstate=normal&catId=&documentId=GALE%7CEJ3010444227&mode=view>

Reminders

- ❖ Your paper is due the **first day of class in September** (either Thursday 9/08 or Friday 9/09). It will be counted as your first grade for the semester.
- ❖ Late assignments will lose 10 points per DAY. NO assignment will be accepted after Sept. 16.
- ❖ Do NOT wait until the last minute; research must be thorough.
- ❖ Feel free to contact me over the summer at cheskestad@tufsd.org or email me your paper as an attachment **prior to** the due date. If you do not hear back from me, I did not receive your message.