



Current Issue Competition

Instructions to Compete

Team Event (2-4 Students)

Limit 1 entry per chapter

Objective:

Up to 4 students may work together to create a current issues essay and portfolio. Topics may include but are not limited to current world, economic, environmental, health, and human rights issues.

Anchor Standards:

- [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.2](#) Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
- [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.4](#) Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.5](#) Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.
- [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.6](#) Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.
- [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.10](#) Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

Method of creation for essay: Document (must be PC compatible) Recommend **MS Word** or **PDF** format

Method of creation for portfolio: We want students to be as creative as possible in creating the current issue portfolio. It is a requirement that students use **technology**, but other than that their imagination is the only limit. They may create a movie, a website, an animation, a Prezi Presentation, a PowerPoint presentation, etc.

Essay should include in any order:

1. A title for this project
2. Description and background of the current issue
 1. What is the issue?
 2. What are the major facts relating to this issue?
 3. What are your opinions and feelings about this issue and how do they impact your interpretation of the facts?
 4. How do you think this issue impacts your community? Your country? The world?



5. What do you think the future significance of this issue will be?
 6. List supporting arguments and/or details for your position.
 7. Discuss the effectiveness of the media in providing an unbiased source of information.
3. A works cited page in MLA or APA format
 4. Any other personal additions to make it your own

Essay Guidelines:

1. Essay should be written in formal language (i.e. no LOL's, etc.)
2. Essay should have perfect grammar and spelling
3. Essay should be typed and be approximately 500 to 750 words in length.
4. Essay should use credible sources to gather information and use on works cited page.

Portfolio should include in any order:

1. Images and/or infographics that represent the description, background, and possible future of your current issue
2. Images and other information used must be cited in MLA or APA format. The works cited can be included in the project or can be attached on separate document.
3. Any other personal additions to make it your own

Portfolio Guidelines:

1. Portfolio must be created and delivered using technology.
2. Some acceptable forms of technology include a movie, a website, an animation, a Prezi Presentation, a PowerPoint presentation, a magazine spread, etc.
3. Any text used in the portfolio must be formal and have proper spelling and grammar.

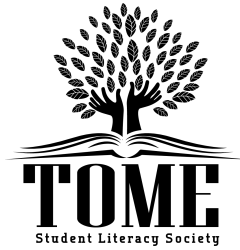
Method of Submission:

Advisers will submit entries through the online Spring Adviser Competition Entry form. Directions will be emailed to paid chapter advisers prior to the deadline.

All entries must be submitted by:

No later than posted Spring Competition deadline found at tomesociety.org/competitions - Entries must be submitted by the Chapter Advisor -- only 1 entry per chapter/level (3-5), (6-8) and (9-12).





Current Issues Portfolio
Competition Rubric

Student submissions will include the following and will be judged on the quality of each category:

ELEMENT	Exemplary	Proficient	Unsatisfactory	POINTS
Title	The essay and portfolio includes an appropriate and descriptive title. (5 points)	The essay and portfolio includes a title but it is inappropriate and/or non-descript. (1-4 points)	The essay and portfolio does not include a title. (0 points)	
Description and Background of the Current Issue	The essay includes all 7 main description and background questions. (28 points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the issue? - What are the major facts relating to this issue? (minimum 10) - What are your opinions and feelings about this issue and how do they impact your interpretations of the facts? - How do you think this issue impacts your community, country, and world? - What do you think the future significance of this issue will be? - What are the valid supporting arguments and/or details for your position? - How is the media effective in providing an unbiased source of information? 	The essay includes all 7 main description and background questions, however, the explanations are minimal and/or do not tie together in a logical manner. (1-27 points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the issue? - What are the major facts relating to this issue? (minimum 10) - What are your opinions and feelings about this issue and how do they impact your interpretations of the facts? - How do you think this issue impacts your community, country, and world? - What do you think the future significance of this issue will be? - What are the valid supporting arguments and/or details for your position? - How is the media effective in providing an unbiased source of information? 	The essay does not include the 7 main description and background questions. (0 points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the issue? - What are the major facts relating to this issue? (minimum 10) - What are your opinions and feelings about this issue and how do they impact your interpretations of the facts? - How do you think this issue impacts your community, country, and world? - What do you think the future significance of this issue will be? - What are the valid supporting arguments and/or details for your position? - How is the media effective in providing an unbiased source of information? 	
Spelling and Grammar	Author uses proper spelling and grammar throughout the essay. (10 points)	Author makes 4 or less spelling and grammar errors throughout the essay. (1-9 points)	Author makes 5 or more spelling and grammar errors throughout the essay. (0 points)	
Works Cited Page for Essay	The essay includes 5 articles pertaining to the chosen current event. Works cited is complete, correct, and from reputable sources. (11 points)	The essay includes 1-4 articles pertaining to the chosen current event. Works cited is mostly complete, correct, and from reputable sources. (1-10 points)	The essay does not include any articles pertaining to the chosen current event. The works cited is not complete, correct, or from reputable sources. (0 points)	
Technology	Technology was used to create and deliver the portfolio. The technology used enhances and elevates the essay and is not an exact replica. (10 points)	Technology was used to create and deliver the portfolio. The technology used is minimally enhances and elevates the essay and/or it is an exact replica. (1-9 points)	The technology was not used to create and deliver the portfolio and/or it does not enhance and elevate the essay.	
Images	Minimum of 5 images and/or infographics that represent the description, background, and possible future of your current issue are included in the portfolio. (15 points)	3 to 5 images and/or infographics that represent the description, background, and possible future of your current issue are included in the portfolio but are inappropriate or non-descript. (1-4 points)	Less than 3 images and/or infographics that represent the description, background, and possible future of your current issue are included in the portfolio and are inappropriate or non-descript. (0 points)	
Portfolio Citations	Images and other information used in the portfolio are cited in MLA or APA format and are either included in the project or attached on a separate document. (11 points)	Images and other information used in the portfolio are cited in MLA or APA format but are incomplete or incorrectly cited.	Images and other information used in the portfolio are not cited in MLA or APA format.	
Personal Touches	The essay and portfolio include detail, language, and other elements that make it unique to the student. (10 points)	The essay and portfolio includes minimal details, language, and other elements that make it unique to the student. (1-9 points)	The essay and portfolio does not include any details, language, or other elements that make it unique to the student. (0 points)	
TOTAL				___/100





Tome Society Current Issue
Classroom Lesson Plan

Unit:

Tome Society

Unit Objective:

Students will be able to participate in competitions and conferences in order to showcase their knowledge with reading comprehension and technology.

Lesson:

Create a current issue essay and portfolio

Lesson Objective:

Students will create an essay and portfolio discussing a current issue of their choice.

Standards:

- [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.2](#) Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
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- [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.5](#) Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.
- [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.6](#) Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.
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Tools/Equipment Needed:

Word Processing Software/Online Tool, Computer/Mobile Device with Internet Connection

Possibly: Video Creation Tool/Software, Desktop Publishing Tool, Presentation Tool

Links to Prior Knowledge/Activities:

The analysis of current issues allows numerous opportunities for students to improve their critical thinking skills. Students will need to choose a current issue of their choice.



Lesson Activities:

1. Teachers will begin by giving an overview of the assignment and will then give sample current issues that will be appropriate.
2. The teacher will take time to review the rubric in which the students will be graded.
3. Students will then be given time to do free-range research in order to decide on a topic. Students can use the internet or current publications to help them brainstorm topic ideas.
4. Students will then have opportunities, both in class and outside of class to complete their assignment. The teacher and the media specialist will be able to assist and guide students with their assignment.
5. As students submit an initial posting, other students will peer review the project. The student will then be able to correct any problems they might have encountered.
6. After any corrections, students will submit their final project which will be graded both by their teacher and by the media specialist using a rubric. Two students will be chosen to enter their finished products in the Tome Society Current Issue Contest.

Assessment

The students' essays and portfolios will be graded according to a rubric and the finished product will serve as the assessment.

Parts of this lesson have been adapted from:

Allen, Christine A. "Writing a "My Turn" Personal Essay." *PBS*. PBS, 2001. Web. 17 Jan. 2014.

<<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/teachers/les>

