



Tome Current Issues Portfolio Competition Instructions

Individual or Team Spring Competition	One Entry Per Chapter Level
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Objective: A team of 1-4 students will research a current national or world issue and create a digital portfolio, including a written essay. Topics may include, but are not limited to, current economic, environmental, health, or human rights issues.

Learning Targets:

- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
- Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.
- Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.

Final Product Guidelines:

- Portfolio will include:
 - An Essay
 - Submitted as a Google Doc or PDF typed document.
 - A Digital Portfolio
 - Submitted in any cohesive digital format, such as a website, slideshow presentation, Prezi, movie, etc.
- Portfolio and essay must clearly be the students' own original work - NO AI ALLOWED.
- All work should be excellently written in proper language (no texting-style abbreviations) with excellent grammar, spelling, & mechanics.
- All work should use school appropriate language (no profanity, etc).
- Portfolio and essay should present an explanatory, unbiased, thorough overview of the viewpoints surrounding their chosen issue.
- Students should research their chosen topic, looking at news articles/programming over the last few months or more, and reading more about their topic in books and on the internet.
 - Some websites students may find helpful are:
 - <https://www.allsides.com/unbiased-balanced-news> - news articles
 - <https://worldatoz.org/> - videos
 - <https://www.kidnuz.org/> - podcast

- <https://join1440.com/> - daily news summary
 - Click on “Today’s Briefing” or have an adult subscribe to the daily email newsletter
 - NewsELA through your school account (if available)
 - Galileo databases (get the login info from your librarian)
 - <https://www.isidewith.com/> - for researching political party policies
 - <https://propaganda.mediaeducationlab.com/learn> - learn to recognize propaganda
- Essay guidelines:
 - Essays should be written in expository style, not persuasive.
 - All work should be excellently written in proper language (no texting-style abbreviations) with excellent grammar, spelling, & mechanics.
 - All work should use school appropriate language (no profanity, etc).
 - Essay should be typed and be approximately 600-700 words in length.
 - Essay should use credible sources to gather information and include a works cited page.
- Essay should include:
 - A title for this project
 - Description and background of the current issue
 - What is the issue?
 - What are the major facts relating to this issue?
 - What are the major viewpoints surrounding this issue?
 - Provide data supporting your research
 - Interpretation and impact of the issue (include at least 4 of the points listed below)
 - How do the viewpoints and emotions involved in this issue impact interpretation of the facts surrounding this issue?
 - How do you think this issue impacts your community? Your country? The world?
 - How did your own viewpoint on this issue grow or change as you researched?
 - What do you think the future significance of this issue will be?
 - Discuss the effectiveness of the media in providing an unbiased source of information on this issue.
 - What roles has propaganda played in this issue?
 - Where did you find the most thorough and unbiased information about this issue?
 - Provide data supporting your research
 - A works cited page in MLA or APA format
- Portfolio Guidelines:
 - Digitally created and submitted as a sharable link for judging
 - Ideas for creation: website (Weebly, Google, etc), slideshow presentation, Prezi, movie, etc.
 - All work should be excellently written in proper language (no texting-style abbreviations) with excellent grammar, spelling, & mechanics.
 - All work should use school appropriate language (no profanity, etc).
- Portfolio should include:
 - A title for this project
 - A robust collection of data, images, and information showcasing your issue that helps the viewer to understand the background and importance of the issue
 - At least 4 images related to your issue
 - A student created infographic showing data related to your issue
 - Suggested website: <https://piktochart.com/infographic-maker/>
 - Infographic should include at least 3 data sections
 - Other graphs, charts, graphics, etc as needed to convey your data and research
 - Citations for your sources and images
 - A works cited page in MLA or APA format.

Tome Current Issues Portfolio Scoring Rubric

*Student should self-assess their work using the following scoring rubric before submission.
Failure to meet all rubric requirements will result in loss of points.*

Essay is submitted as a Google Doc or PDF format. 5 pts		Essay is not submitted as a Google Doc or PDF format. 0 pts	
Portfolio is submitted as a sharable link accessible to the judges. 5 pts		Portfolio is not submitted as a sharable link accessible to the judges. 5 pts	
Portfolio and essay are clearly the student's original work. 20 pts		Evidence suggests the work was created using AI or is not fully the student's original work. 0 pts	
Excellent grammar, spelling, & mechanics 20 pts	Good grammar, spelling, & mechanics 15 pts	Fair grammar, spelling, & mechanics 10 pts	Poor grammar, spelling, & mechanics 5 pts
Essay is between 600-700 words. 5 pts		Essay is less than 600 words or more than 700 words. 0 pts	
Portfolio & essay include a creative title. 3 pts		Portfolio & essay do not include a creative title. 0 pts	
Essay includes an accurate works cited page & citations. 10 pts		Essay does not include a works cited page & citations, or the works cited page is incomplete. 0 pts	
Portfolio includes an accurate works cited page & citations. 10 pts		Portfolio does not include a works cited page & citations, or the works cited page is incomplete. 0 pts	
The essay is a clear and thorough analysis of the issue's background and its current effects, with some personal thoughts on different viewpoints and media bias. 40 pts	The essay gives a good overview of the issue, including its background and effects. It shares some personal thoughts, but could explain some parts in more detail. 20 pts		The essay has a weak analysis of the issue, missing important background information and effects. There's little personal reflection. 0 pts
The portfolio includes a rich collection of diverse data, images, and information that effectively highlights the background and significance of the issue, making it easy for the viewer to understand its importance. 30 pts	The portfolio has a solid collection of data and images that convey the issue's background and significance, but it could use more variety or detail to enhance understanding. 15 pts		The portfolio contains very limited data and images, making it difficult for the viewer to grasp the background and importance of the issue; important information is missing or unclear. 0 pts
The portfolio includes at least 4 high-quality, relevant images, along with a well-designed infographic that features at least 3 clearly labeled data sections. Additional graphs, charts, and graphics are effectively used to enhance understanding and support the research. 30 pts	The portfolio has at least 4 relevant images and a student-created infographic that includes 3 data sections, but some elements may lack clarity or detail. Additional graphs and charts are present but could be better integrated into the overall presentation. 15 pts		The portfolio is missing required images or includes fewer than 4 images; the infographic either lacks the necessary data sections or is poorly designed. There are few or no additional graphs and charts, making it difficult to convey the research effectively. 0 pts
Excellently written 20 pts	Well written 15 pts	Fairly well written 10 pts	Poorly written 5 pts

Total Points Awarded: _____/198 pts