

Guidelines for the Current Events Responses

(15 % of course grade)

For each of the articles we read in class for our “Current Events Discussions,” you will write a short response *after* we have had our class discussion of the article. Your response should be 250-300 words and should be a reflection on the article that addresses *at least one* of the following prompts. **Do not** try to address each of the prompts in **all** of your responses, but address each prompt **at least once** during the semester. These paragraphs will help you as you work on the final essay:

1. Complete the following sentence and elaborate: « Une chose que j’ai trouvée intéressante dans cet article était la façon dont l’auteur a parlé de.... parce que... . » (“One thing I found interesting in this article was the way that the author spoke about ... because...”)
2. Complete the following sentence and elaborate: « Cet article m’a donné envie de savoir plus sur ... parce que » (“This article made me want to know more about ... because ...”)
3. Complete the following sentence and elaborate: « Une chose qui m’a dérangé(e) dans cet article était ... parce que ... » (“One thing that bothered me in this article was ... because ...”)
4. Est-ce que quelque chose dans cet article t’a fait penser à ta propre perspective culturelle ? Quoi ? Essaie d’expliquer pourquoi ta perspective, en tant qu’Américain(e) (ou membre d’une autre nationalité), diffère de celle d’un(e) Français(e)/Québécois(e)/Haïtien(ne). (Did something in this article make you think about your own cultural perspective? What? Try to explain why your perspective, as an American (or member of another nationality), is different from that of a French/Québécois/Haitian person.)
5. Résume les points principaux de l’article et dis si l’auteur semble neutre ou engagé(e). Quels éléments du texte te montrent sa neutralité/son engagement ? (Summarize the main points of the article and say whether you think the author is neutral or biased? What elements of the text show his/her neutrality or bias?)

For your short responses, you will be graded on the quality of your reflection (20 pts) and your grammatical accuracy (10 pts). I am looking for proof that you are grappling with the issues we discuss in class, not for a “right” answer.

Excellent	Comments	Deficient/Unacceptable
Your response clearly addresses one of the prompts and engages with the <i>text</i> of the article in order to demonstrate deep reflection.		Your response fails to address one of the prompts and/or shows little effort to reflect deeply on the question and/or fails to take into account the text and context of the article.
Your writing accurately incorporates the grammar, vocabulary and syntactical structures we have studied. There are not careless errors. Errors in expression never get in the way of your reader understanding what you are trying to say.		There are many unacceptable errors in grammar, vocabulary and/or syntax, frequently careless errors. It is sometimes impossible to determine what you are trying to say.