



Course Outcome Summary

Course Information: **Current Events (S.S.)**

Description: Current Events will provide an avenue for students to read and write about the events most affecting the World, Nation, and Locally. They will have opportunities to make claims, compare and contrast, debate, and overall be augmentative with their views as they create theories and collaborate on appropriate solutions.

Instruction Level: 10 - 12

Total Credits: 1

Prerequisites: NA

Textbooks: NA

Course Standards:

- Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.
- Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.
- Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.
- Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

Unit

1. News Sources and Biases
2. Valid Information: Fact vs. Opinion
3. Augmentative Writing within Current Events
4. Rules of Debate: Different Viewpoints
5. Past, Present, and Future Links

Unit Outlines

1. News Sources and Bias

Standards:

- Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.

Essential Question:

- Where can I find valid and current news stories and what bias does the source have?

Essential Knowledge:

- Discovering if one is conservative, liberal, or moderate views.
- Compare and Contrast 2 popular news sources.

2. Valid Information: Fact vs. Opinion

Standards:

- Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.

Essential Question:

- How can I differentiate fact from opinion and how do I know if a source is valid?

Essential Knowledge:

- Creating a solid opinion based on factual information.
- Finding valid sources in the news and recognizing overly biased or exaggerated claims.

3. Augmentative Writing within Current Events

Standards:

- Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.

Essential Question:

- What is best practice when convincing those who disagree with my viewpoint?

Essential Knowledge:

- Forming claims and counter claims on a topic student is passionate about.
- Examining issues and evaluating possible solutions.

4. Rules of Debate: Different View Points

Standards:

- Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

Essential Question:

- How can I debate appropriately and convincingly against an opponent with conflicting views?

Essential Knowledge:

- Identify 5 claims and acknowledgement of corresponding counter-claims concerning a current event.
- Demonstration of debate ethics and respect of various viewpoints.

5. Past, Present, and Future Links

Standards:

- Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

Essential Question:

- In what ways can we evaluate today's events by using events from history and making educated theories on the future?

Essential Knowledge:

- Recognition of similarities between current events with past events.
- Identify the roles certain individuals and groups play nationally and internationally.