**Contemporary US Issues (04106)**

**Fall 2011**

**Instructor**: Mrs. Yolanda Price

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**Text**: NONE

**Description**: The course will focus on a detailed look at the monuments, buildings, museums, etc. to be toured during the 2011-2012 Close-Up Trip to Washington, DC.

**Goal**: Each day while in Washington, DC the students will be exposed to a variety of current topics, government including the senate and congress, workshops, memorials, etc.; prior to our departure the students will immerse themselves in order to be knowledgeable of all the below.

 **Objective #1: 3 Faces of Democracy**

Jefferson, Lincoln, FDR Memorials

African-American Civil War Memorial

 **Objective #2: U.S. Role in Global World**

 WWII, Korean, Vietnam Memorials

 Global Policy

 Mock Congress

 **Objective #3: Capitol Hill Day**

 Congress Members

 Supreme Court & Library of Congress

 **Objective #4: Discover DC**

 Self-exploration

 Smithsonian

 **Objective #5: The Big Apple**

 Central Park

 Times Square

 Broadway Show

 **Objective #6: The Big Apple**

 Liberty & Ellis Island

 Ground Zero

 Lower East Side/Chinatown

 “Top of the Rock”

Upon arrival the focus will be on helping students develop the attitudes and skills needed to be informed and engaged citizens. Close-Up features DC as a living classroom, peer-to-peer learning, seminars with policy experts and even meetings in Congress.

**Requirements**: Students will be responsible to complete projects (photo story, power point, research paper, wiki page, demonstration/poster board, flyer, etc.) based on the topics above. There will be nine projects required during the first 2 quarters. See Rubric for specific details.

**Resources**: internet resources including the SD library, the Drudge Report, SIRS, [www.realclearpolitics.com](http://www.realclearpolitics.com), [www.theweek.com](http://www.theweek.com)

See Mrs. Price for the following texts: Know Your America, The American Spirit, The American Pageant

**Evaluation**: See Rubric

**Additional Requirements**: Students will choose a topic from each of the 6 objectives for 6 of their projects; the other 3 will be focused on liberal and conservative views based on current issues facing the US. Students will then choose the type of project; each type of project must be used at least once within the 9 projects.

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| --- | --- |
| **Topics** | **Project Type** |
| **Objective #1: 3 Faces of Democracy**  Jefferson Memorial Lincoln Memorial FDR Memorial African-American Civil War Memorial**Objective #2: U.S. Role in Global World** World War II Memorial Korean Memorial Vietnam Memorial Global Policy Mock Congress**Objective #3: Capitol Hill Day** Congress Members Supreme Court Library of Congress**Objective #4: Discover DC** White House Kennedy Center Washington Monument Arlington National Cemetery Georgetown Iwo Jima Holocaust Museum Museum of American History Mount Vernon Any Smithsonian  Changing of Guard/Tomb of Unknown Soldier**Objective #5: The Big Apple** Central Park Times Square Broadway Show Statue of Liberty United Nations**Objective #6: The Big Apple** Liberty & Ellis Island Ground Zero Lower East Side/Chinatown “Top of the Rock” Wall Street**LAST Projects Liberal/Conservative** Pick 3 current issues in DC/NY & debate both  a conservative view & liberal view in 3  separate projects | Movie Maker (6 slide minimum)Power point (6 slide minimum)Research paper (2pg; 12pt; 1” margins)Wiki pageDemonstrationPosterFlyer (2-sided tri-fold)Timeline (at least 10 events)Other types approved by Mrs. PriceIn EVERY project try to answer the questions:WHO?WHAT?WHEN?WHY?HOW?Include fun facts, pictures, music, mini clips, sources, etc. |

**Contemporary US Issues Rubric**

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| **Score** | **Content** | **Conventions** | **Organization** | **Presentation** |
| **4** | * Is well thought out and supports the topic or question
* Reflects application of critical thinking
* Is pulled from a variety of sources
* Is accurate
 | * No spelling, grammatical or punctuation errors
* High level use of vocabulary and word choice
 | * Information is clearly focused in an organized and thoughtful manner
* Information is constructed in a logical pattern to support the topic
 | * Multimedia is used to clarify and illustrate the main points
* Format enhances the content
* Presentation captures audience attention
* Presentation is organized and well laid out
 |
| **3** | * Is well thought out and supports the topic or question
* Application of critical thinking is apparent
* Is pulled from several sources
* Is accurate
 | * Few (1-3) spelling, grammatical or punctuation errors
* Good use of vocabulary and word choice
 | * Information supports the topic or question
 | * Multimedia is used to illustrate main points
* Format is appropriate for the content
* Presentation captures audience attention
* Presentation is well organized
 |
| **2** | * Supports the topic
* Application of critical thinking is apparent
* Is pulled from a limited number of sources
* Has some factual errors or inconsistencies
 | * Minimal (3-5) spelling, grammatical, or punctuation errors
* Low level use of vocabulary and word choice
 | * Project has a focus but might stray from it at times
* Information appears to have a pattern, but the pattern is not consistently carried out in the project
* Information loosely supports the topic
 | * Multimedia loosely illustrates the main points
* Format does not suit the content
* Presentation does not capture audience attention
* Presentation is loosely organized
 |
| **1** | * Provides inconsistent information for the topic
* Has no apparent application of critical thinking
* Information pulled from few sources
* Has significant factual errors, misconceptions, or misinterpretations
 | * More than 5 spelling, grammatical, or punctuation errors
* Poor use of vocabulary and word choice
 | * Content is unfocused and haphazard
* Information does not support the solution to the challenge or question
* Information has no apparent pattern
 | * Presentation appears sloppy and/or unfinished
* Multimedia is overused or underused
* Format does not enhance content
* Presentation has not clear organization
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