**Contemporary US Issues (04106)**

**Fall 2011**

**Instructor**: Mrs. Yolanda Price

**Email**: [yolanda.price@k12.sd.us](mailto:yolanda.price@k12.sd.us)

**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 page  Demonstration  Poster  Flyer (2-sided tri-fold)  Timeline (at least 10 events)  Other types approved by Mrs. Price  In 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 |