

Journalism 12 Summer Assignment: Media Critique

- Pick an important national issue that appears frequently in the news. Get approval from me if you go beyond ONE of the following suggestions:

Gun Control

Immigration

LGBTQ Rights

The Special Counsel Investigation

Conflict with North Korea

Conflict in the Middle East

Abortion

Jobs in the United States

The Environment

- Read stories addressing this issue between June 15th and August 20th. You can set up Google alerts or just follow the story from publication to publication. You must source stories from at least TWO different reputable publications over the course of the project. They may be opinion pieces or informative news articles. Here are some suggestions for mainstream sites (but you may find smaller sites focused on your issues):

The New York Times

CNN

Reuters

Fox News

The Hill

Politico

The Wall Street Journal

Washington Post

The Atlantic

Slate

Vox

Axios

- Keep a journal in the form of a Google Doc entitled “Media Critique: (Insert the issue you picked).” Share it with me (asimmons@srcs.org). Between the end of this school year and the beginning of the next school year, evaluate at least SIX stories about your issue. Your evaluations (approximately 150-200 words apiece) should include: a) a brief

summary of the story; b) whether or not it altered your opinion on the issue or taught you something new; and c) a brief discussion of how the story/publication addressed the issue (Was there an opinion expressed? If it wasn't an opinion story, does it appear to have a bias anyway? How did it make you feel?). Format each entry like this:

Story: "Why Gun Control is Wrong" (Hard Right News, May 20, 2018)

Link: www.hardrightnews.com/fgdfh34665e7

Summary: (answers to A)

Discussion: (answers to B and C)

- In August/September, I will have you submit these journals to Canvas and grade them. We will discuss what you learned about these topics and the way media covered them. Thinking about bias, perspective, persuasion, and storytelling when it comes to these national issues will help us as we prepare to address our local concerns!