**IB Global Politics: Research Blogging**

**Overview/Rationale:** One of the most fundamental components of IB Global Politics is the ability to summarize, analyze and apply current events issues as they occur in real time and as they relate to content that we cover throughout the course. Throughout the tenure of this course, students will be expected to complete one weekly current events blog, which will cite a reputable piece of research: a newspaper/magazine article, TedTalk, podcast (see end of assignment for suggested sources). Students should choose topics that are of personal interest and should not repeat articles that have already been used by other students.

**Directions**: Current Events blogs will be due every Friday before midnight (regardless of school schedule; A/B Day schedule) unless otherwise stated by your instructor. Blogs should be formatted accordingly (see example below)

* **Title**: Title must not simply be the title of the article being reviewed but instead give the reader an idea of what the issue is that is being discussed
* **Title of Article/Ted Talk/Podcast etc**
* **Author**:
* **Date of Publication**: Date of publication should be no more than 3 years prior to post date
* **Source**: Provide a link to the article or an APA style citation if the article does not have an accessible link
* **Key Concepts**: Select 2 key concepts (see key concept guide) which are addressed by the article. Preferably stick to key concepts that are part of present units (1 from a past unit and 1 from a present unit is okay)
* **Summary/Background**: Provide a short 5-10 sentence summary of the content of the article and any background information the reader may need to understand the issue being discussed in the article.
* **Analysis of Key Concepts**: Provide an in-depth analysis of how the current event issue can be applied to both key concepts. (In some cases this may require additional research/information outside the article, so be sure to cite appropriately)
* **Impact/Application**: Describe how this specific event impacts at least 2 actors (governments, nation-states, citizens, specific persons) and explain how each has been or may continue to be impacted by the event described in the article.
* **Questions:** Write 3-4 questions you have as a result of reading the article. These should be complex questions (not ones with simple yes or no answers) that may guide further research on behalf of you or your classmates and

Students are also responsible for 10 comments per unit (must be posted at midnight BEFORE the Unit test). Comments should be in-depth responses that directly relate to the content from the blog or in response to a previous comment on their own work. A good hint to high-quality comments is to answer one of the questions posed by the blog’s original author

**Key Concepts**: Each blog post should relate the content of the current event to one of the ***key concepts*** in IB Global Politics. Current events should relate to key concepts only from past or current units (not past units). Key concepts from each unit are listed below. (Further Description/Definition found on page xiv of your text book)

* **Unit 1**: *Power, Sovereignty and International Relations*
  + **KC: Power, Sovereignty, Legitimacy, Interdependence** 
    - **Examples:** States, Statehood, Power structures, IGOs, NGOs, MNCs, Political Parties, Violent Protest Movements, Inter/Intrastate war, Terrorist Attacks
* **Unit 2**: *Human Rights*
  + **KC: Human Rights, Justice, Liberty, Equality**
    - **Examples:** Human Rights milestones, Human Rights Laws/Treaties, Claims on Human Rights (labor rights, indigenous rights, gender equality, LGBTQ Rights), Human Rights Violations (forced labor, human trafficking, child soldiers, gender discrimination)
* **Unit 3**: *Development* 
  + **KC: Development, Globalization, Inequality, Sustainability** 
    - **Examples:** Economic Growth/Development, Poverty, Modernization, Trade/Trade Liberalization, Improving Education and Healthcare, Standard of Living Assessments
* **Unit 4**: Peace and Conflict
  + **KC: Peace, Conflict, Violence, Non-Violence**
    - **Examples:** Types of Conflict (territorial, interest-based, ideological, identity), Causes of Conflict, Territorial control, Conflict Dynamics, Peacemaking/Peace Enforcement

**Resources (Sites for credible current events articles and information)**

* **GloPoPolis:** [https://www.glopopolis.org](https://www.glopopolis.org/)
* **The Guardian:** <https://www.theguardian.com/international>
* **Gapminder:** <https://www.gapminder.org/>
* **Council on Foreign Relations:** <https://www.cfr.org/>
* **The Economist:** <https://www.economist.com/>
* **Foreign Policy Association:** <https://www.fpa.org/>
* **National Public Radio (NPR):** <https://www.npr.org/sections/politics/>
* **ReliefWeb:** <https://reliefweb.int/>
* **Frankfurter Allgemeine:** <https://www.faz.net/aktuell/>
* **El Pais:** <https://elpais.com/elpais/portada_america.html>
* **Globalization 101:** <http://www.globalization101.org/>
* **Foreign Policy Magazine:** <https://foreignpolicy.com/>
* **Vision of Humanity:** <http://visionofhumanity.org/info-center/>
* **World Affairs Council:** <https://www.world-affairs.org/about-us/>
* **BBC Global News PodCast:** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02nq0gn/episodes/downloads>

**IB Global Politics Class Blog Login Information:**

**Website/App: Edublogs (Through Wordpress)**

Once Mrs Eplin collects your email you will need to create an account on edublogs and you receive an invite code which will allow you to add and edit blogs and comments as you wish which will show up under your name and profile.

* View Site: http://eplibibglopo.edublogs.org

**Research Blog Rubric**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 10 Marks | 8 Marks | 0-6 Marks |
| Content | * Demonstrates clear understanding of the content related to the article. * Summary, analysis and impact are clearly stated | * Demonstrates satisfactory understanding of the content relevant to the article. * Summary, analysis and impact are not clearly stated. | * Demonstrates a lack of understanding of some aspects of the article. * Summary, analysis and impact are inaccurate or absent. |
| Critical Thinking | * Demonstrates insight with regard to the implications and impacts of the event * Evaluation and/or analysis is clearly written and justified | * Either implications or evaluation/analysis is well argued. * May lack some clarification or justification. | * Lacks either implications or evaluation, * And/or the attempts at evaluation /analysis are incorrect. |
| Organization | * Well organized paragraph(s) that fluidly leads the reader through the event * Clearly helps the reader understand the importance of the event. * Citation is included. | * Overall, well organized, but at times difficult to follow because of language or logic of argument. * Citation is included. | * No citation – * And/or a poorly developed paragraph that does not clearly present the research to the reader |