

Thomas P. Doran
Watershed Science for Educators
NRS 591
Final Paper – Project Information / Format

Student's Name: Thomas P. Doran
Spring Semester 2007
Attended @ University of Rhode Island Bay Campus

Title of Watershed Extension: Current Event Journal:
Addressing Watershed and Water Related Issues

GEMS-Net Science Kit or other curriculum to which the extension applies: *Not Applicable*

Grade(s) suitable for this extension: Grades 6 – 12

Subjects covered in the activity: Science: Current Events in Science (*Watershed and Water Related Issues*)
English Language Arts

Skills used by students: Summarizing Techniques
Literacy Skills
Current Event & Issues in Watershed and Water Related Awareness
Civic & Community Issue Awareness
Preparation for State Testing (Science & ELA)

Standards Met: Refer to GLE & GSE Folder on this disk

Duration: Quarter / Semester (as determined by instructor issuing assignment)

Group Size: Individual

Setting: In and out of class

Watershed Science for Educators
NRS 591
Current Event Journal
Background - Teacher Strategies & Materials

Teacher Strategies:

The overall project is unique in the aspect that it provides an opportunity to incorporate reading and writing into your class. It is known that current state testing focuses on Mathematics, English & Language Arts and beginning in 2007 (pilot testing / 2008 officially) Science.

One aspect of the ELA testing is summarizing. This project provides the student(s) the opportunity to enhance their summarizing techniques using watershed / water related issue articles in their journals. The associated summarizing templates are designed to minimize the writing process while maximizing the summarizing of main aspects of different types of published articles...versus the common method employed by most students, the restatement of almost the entire article.

Finally the assignment provides an opportunity to enhance student literacy in and out of the classroom while keeping up with current event issues in our communities, state, country and world.

Contact local Staples / or Job Lot / Walmart store for possible donation of the composition journal / notebook.

If stores are not able to help out, order materials if possible through school, PTO or have students purchase for themselves (\$.50 each).

Assign project at the start of the quarter, so as to allow students ample time to collect articles for journals.

Assign due date at time of assigning project. This may be done as a quarterly assignment or semester assignment.

The day that the current event journals are due, that particular period should be used to allow for the students to discuss the articles that they summarized.

Keep extra copies of the summarizing template on hand for students that may run out / or students can write out in journals.

Journal offers an opportunity for students to read and write across the curriculum. The summarizing technique allows for an alternative method to the conventional summarizing techniques students currently employ.

The journal offers the opportunity for the students to monitor global climate change current events and an alternative method for assessment rather than standard tests and quizzes.

If students do not have access to newspapers or magazines outside of school, contact state newspaper as they will usually drop off classroom copies, and be sure to access the media center.

**Watershed Science for Educators
NRS 591**

***Current Event Journal
Assignment Introduction and Instructions / Procedure***

Background:

Watershed and all water related issues (fresh / saltwater) is a diverse and important local, national and global topic that covers a wide spectrum of professional fields and fields of study. It is addressed at the political level and local level and impacts each inhabitant of this planet on a personal level.

As a means of understanding just how dynamic a topic this is, you will be monitoring current event happenings during this quarter and maintaining a journal of articles related to this topic.

Instructions:

Obtain a Composition Notebook or three-ring binder from teacher.

Leave the first five pages blank (these will serve as the table of contents *after* articles have been organized in journal and prior to submitting journal)

You are to conduct research using newspapers and magazines during the quarter in which the module is occurring. Please see note at bottom of this page regarding internet sources!

Cut or copy the article from its original source, and tape on the left side of the page in journal.

On the right side of the journal (adjacent / next page), use one of the summarizing methods outlined for you on the attached handout. (NOTE: you only need to use one of these methods per article, which template you use is up to you!)

You will be responsible for ten articles during the quarter.

You need to include the date and source of each article with the article.

PLEASE NOTE

IF INTERNET SOURCES USED THEY MUST BE TEACHER APPROVED

**Current Event Journal / Double Entry Diary
Templates for Journal**

Quote from Article	Connection to Quote
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

Quote or Word From Article	Question
1.	
2.	
3.	

“SUM IT UP”

Name:

Date:

Class Day & Hour:

Title of Reading Selection:

- 1.) Read the selection / article and underline the key words and main ideas. Write these in the blank area below where it says “Main Idea Words”
- 2.) At the bottom of this sheet, write a one-sentence summary or article, using as many key words and main ideas as you can. See if you can “Sum it Up” in twenty words...or less!

“Sum it Up”

**Rubric for Assessing
Watershed Science / Water Related Issues
Current Event Journal**

	4 Exceeds Standard	3 Meets Standard	2 Nearly Meets Standard	1 Does Not Meet Standard	0 No Evidence	Teacher POINTS	Student POINTS
Content	Journal demonstrates a complex understanding of a variety of knowledge through well developed connections to either personal, prior knowledge or world and life connections	Journal demonstrates an understanding of a variety of knowledge through substantial connection to either prior knowledge or world and life connections	Journal demonstrates a superficial understanding of the topic. Connections to personal or prior knowledge are merely implied. Insight into world and life concerns remains limited	The journal demonstrates limited understanding of the topic. Connections to personal, prior knowledge and world, life concerns are restricted or vaguely implied.			
Organization	Information is presented in a logical, interesting sequence which the reader can follow.	Information is presented in a logical sequence which reader can follow.	The sequence of information is difficult to follow.	The sequence of information is impossible to follow.			
Legibility	Easily legible handwriting, typing, or printing.	Marginally legible handwriting, typing, or printing.	Writing is not legible in some places.	Writing is not legible in many places.			
Mechanics	Journal has no errors in punctuation, capitalization, sentence structure and spelling.	Journal has few punctuation, capitalization, sentence structure and spelling errors.	Journal has some punctuation, capitalization, sentence structure and spelling errors.	Journal has many punctuation, capitalization, sentence structure and spelling errors.			
					TOTAL --->		

TEACHER COMMENTS:

REFERENCES

Rubrics:

<http://www.nksd.net/schools/nkhs/>

Literacy Coaches / Teachers : North Kingstown High School

State of Rhode Island Department of Education GSE 's & GLE's:

<http://www.rido.net/>

<http://www.rido.net/standards/default.htm>

<http://www.rido.net/standards/gle/default.htm>