

STUDYING CURRENT EVENTS

WHO should study current events? All of us.

WHAT should we study? We should study what is going on in the world, our country, our state, our county, our city, and our neighborhoods. We should know the names of people in our city, county, state, and national government who shape policy and make decisions for us and about us. We should know the names of important leaders around the world and we should be able to find the location of places in the news.

WHEN should we study current events? At least once a week, but it would be better to study them every day.

WHERE do we get information for current events? Some good places are news radio, newspapers, news magazines, and the internet. Two EXCELLENT sites are:

<http://www.nytimes.com/learning/studentn/pop/index.html>

<http://www.cnnstudentnews.cnn.com/fyi/index.html>

WHY study current events? The events of the world affect us all more than we imagine. Our world seems like a big place but we are very interconnected to events around the globe. Knowing what is going on in the world around you is a sign of intelligence. Smart people are able to talk to other smart people about the important events going on in the world. Leaders especially need to know about the world's affairs because they are often called on to explain those events to the people who work for and with them. Leaders are also expected to make decisions based on their knowledge about the world and its events.

HOW should we study current events? Here is a simple four-part process you can use:

- Instead of listening to music in the car on the way to and from school every day, tune your radio to a news station and listen to the news report. Even if you do not understand everything you hear, the more you listen, the more you will understand.
- At least once a week, go to your school or public library or local newspaper stand and read a newspaper such as the Bakersfield Californian, Contra Costa Times, Fresno Bee, Long Beach Press Telegram, Los Angeles Daily News, Los Angeles Times, Oakland Tribune, Orange County Register, Redding Searchlight-Record, Riverside Press-Enterprise, Sacramento Bee, San Bernardino Sun, San Diego Union Tribune, San Francisco Chronicle, San Jose Mercury News, Santa Rosa Democrat, Stockton Record, or Torrance Daily Breeze.
- Try to watch at least 15 minutes of news per night and talk to your family or friends about what you watch.
- Take a weekly online or written or oral quiz on current events. Try one such as the one at <http://nytimes.com/learning/students/quiz/index.html> or at <http://www.usnews.com/usnews/quiz/current.htm>.