

## Current Events

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your presentation date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Bring the scoring rubric and newspaper article with you on the day you present. (You will lose 5 points if you are not fully prepared.)
2. Your report must have a complete heading.
3. In paragraph form, make sure that you answer the following questions:
  - Who is the article about?
  - What is the article about?
  - Where did the event take place?
  - When did it take place?
  - Why/how do you think this happened?

Make sure that you can answer questions that the audience might have about your article. You should practice speaking out loud about your article at home to become familiar with difficult words.

Have fun with current events by choosing articles that you are interested in! Please choose articles that are appropriate for a fourth grade classroom.

### Examples of appropriate articles:

science-related

sports

health/fitness

community service/news

people helping others

Name .....

Date .....

# Analyzing a News Story

Who is the story about?

A news story gives you the important facts right up front, in the lead or in the first, few paragraphs. Often a reporter makes it easy for the reader to find the facts by organizing the news story around the 5W's (Who? When? Where? What? Why?) and an H (How?).

Use the graphic organizer below to analyze a story.

What happened in the story?

When did it take place?

EVENT/TOPIC

Why is this important?

Where did it take place?

How did it happen?



## Current Event Presentation Grade

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Article: \_\_\_\_\_

Volume of Voice:      5      4      3      2      1

Voice Expression:    5      4      3      2      1

Eye Contact:            5      4      3      2      1

Evidence of Planning: 5      4      3      2      1

Body Posture:          5      4      3      2      1

Total Points: \_\_\_\_\_ / 25                      Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

**Volume of Voice:** Did you speak loud enough for everyone to hear you? Remember to project your voice!

**Voice Expression:** Did you speak slowly and clearly? Did you use inflection in the tone of your voice so that your presentation was interesting for others to hear? Please remember not to mumble or speak in a monotone voice.

**Eye Contact:** Did you look up at the audience while speaking? Remember to tell us about your article in your own words rather than reading directly from your paper.

**Evidence of Planning:** Does your presentation show that you understand your article? Do you explain your article in a way that allows people to understand the important points in your article? Can you answer questions about your article?

**Body Posture:** Did you stand up straight? Try not to lean against the board or sway back and forth.

## Elements of Public Speaking



- ✓ **Body Language**--You must have proper posture. Try not to fidget with your hands or anything in your hands. You may use your hands to show expression while speaking. If your shoulders are sagging or your legs are crossed, you are sending a message that you are not interested in your topic or that you are being insincere.
- ✓ **Volume**--Try to "project" or throw your voice out over the entire group (speak to the last row). If you scream all the way through your speech, it will lose its effectiveness. And if you whisper, your audience will not hear you and become disinterested in what you are saying.
- ✓ **Pitch**--This refers to the highs and lows of your voice. Whatever you do, avoid sounding monotone!
- ✓ **Variance**--Try to vary the elements of your voice. Change your pitch, volume, and speed throughout your speech, even for only one word. Variance keeps your audience interested in what you are saying. Let the words speak for themselves. If you use the word "strangle" say it with a hint of menace in your voice. If you use the word "quietly" use a soft, quiet voice.
- ✓ **Eye Contact**--Focus your attention on the entire audience. Looking at only one person in the audience makes everyone else feel less important. Looking at your feet tells the audience that you are not interested in them at all. Make your eyes travel around the room. You do not need to look at each and every person, but do focus your eyes at different points in the room. If you are in a classroom setting, don't just look at the teacher!

Name

# Student Sample

Date

## Analyzing a News Story

Who is the story about?

People in New York City and Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

A news story gives you the important facts right up front, in the lead or in the first few paragraphs. Often a reporter makes it easy for the reader to find the facts by organizing the news story around the 5W's (Who? When? Where? What? Why?) and an H (How?).

Use the graphic organizer below to analyze a story.

What happened in the story?

People are becoming overweight because food servings are getting bigger and bigger. Soda has a lot of hidden calories.

When did it take place?

currently March, 2013 the ban begins

EVENT/TOPIC

banning super size soda drinks

Why is this important?

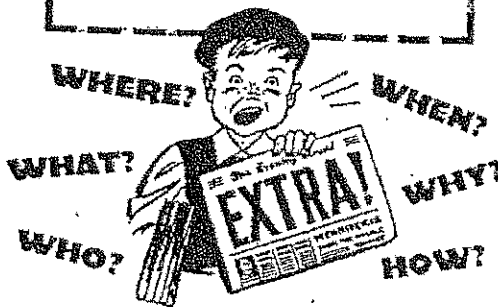
people are eating too much sugar and calories and people are not exercising and becoming overweight.

Where did it take place?

restaurants, movie theaters, and sports arenas in New York City.

How did it happen?

soda's and fast food were to be smaller. soda used to be a 9 ounces, now it is 12, 16, 32 and 64 ounces. that's hundreds of calories.



# Student Sample

Social Studies

10/20

Current Events

## So Long, Super Sizes

The Mayor of New York City is Michael Bloomberg. Mayor Bloomberg wants to stop selling (ban) super sized soda drinks at restaurants, movie theaters, and even at sports events in New York City. Mayor Bloomberg and health experts think that people are drinking too much soda and it is causing people to become unhealthy and over weight. The ban will begin in March 2013. Mayor Bloomberg thinks that if large sizes of drinks and food aren't sold, people will make healthier choices.

French fries, hamburgers, and soda sold at movie theaters, restaurants, and sports events, have gotten bigger and bigger over the years. Soda sizes are as big as 32 and 64 ounces. That is the size of Big Gulp! Sodas that size have about 100 grams of sugar in it and about 360 calories. Too much sugar and calories make you unhealthy and can make you over weight. A fourth grader would need to run 1 hour and 30 minutes to get rid of the calories from a 32 ounce soda!

Some people think that places should not stop selling larger sizes but teach people how to eat healthy and make healthy choices. Mayor Bloomberg said that soda will still be sold but the sizes will be smaller. He wants to keep people healthy and active.

# So Long, Super

## New York City takes a stand against selling extra-large sugary drinks

**P**eople in New York City will soon be slurping down fewer jumbo-sized drinks. Last month, the city banned the sale of sugary drinks larger than 16 ounces at certain businesses. These include restaurants, movie theaters, and sports arenas. The ban begins in March 2013. Mayor Michael Bloomberg pushed for the new law. It's part of his effort to fight rising obesity rates among New Yorkers. The ban is the first of its kind in the U.S. It may not be the last.

Health experts and lawmakers are trying to

### Words to Know

**obesity** (oh-BEE-sih-tee) *noun*. a condition in which a person's weight is much greater than what is considered healthy

**combat** (KAHM-bat) *verb*. to try to stop something from happening or getting worse



Large drinks like this one will soon disappear from New York City fast-food restaurants.

address a nationwide obesity problem. About one third of adults in the U.S. are obese. That's more than twice the rate of 30 years ago. Being overweight has been linked to serious health problems. These include heart disease and diabetes. Many health experts say larger portions are partly to blame for the country's weight problems.

### Growing Portions

From french fries to hamburgers, fast food has gotten much bigger over the years. Hamburgers today are about three times larger than they were when your grandparents were kids.

But soft drink sizes have ballooned most of all. In 1955, McDonald's sold only 7-ounce drinks. (Most soft-drink cans are 12 ounces.) Today, a large drink

at McDonald's is 32 ounces. Some restaurants and theaters even sell 64-ounce drinks.

The result? Each day, Americans consume hundreds more calories—and far more sugar—than they did a few decades ago. At the same time, most people have been getting less exercise. That means they're not burning off those extra calories. This combination has caused millions of Americans to become overweight.

### The Right Step?

In recent years, sugary drinks have been a main focus in efforts to combat obesity. Many school districts around the country have banned the sale of these drinks.

Some health experts say New York City's ban will help people make healthier choices.



# Sizes?

"People are not aware of how many calories they can consume by drinking beverages," says Alicia Calvo. She's a nutrition expert from California. Calvo says the ban "is helping educate people regarding portion sizes."

## A Different Opinion

Not everyone supports the ban. That includes nutritionist Julie Feldman. She works for the food and beverage industry. Feldman says it's better to teach people about what they should eat "versus talking about all the things they shouldn't."

Other opponents say the ban takes away individual freedom. They argue that people should be allowed to buy as much of a product as they want. But Mayor Bloomberg points out that the ban affects only large portions. New Yorkers can still buy as many 16-ounce or 12-ounce drinks as they like.

Bloomberg spoke about the issue on the *Today* show. He said, "All we're trying to do is to explain . . . that if you drink a little bit less, you will live longer."

—Natalie Smith

This cup holds **32 ounces**. It's the actual size of a large soft drink sold at McDonald's, Subway, Pizza Hut, and other fast-food restaurants.

A cup of soda this size has about **360 calories**.\*

A typical fourth-grader would need to jog for **1 hour and 30 minutes** to work off those extra calories.\*\*

A drink this size has about **100 grams** of sugar.\*

\*BASED ON 12 FL. OZ. PEPSI CARBONATED SODA. © 2012 NATIONAL DIETARY FOUNDATION. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. © 2012 AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATION.