

Name:

Period:

**Current Events:
Triumph and Tragedy**

To be well-informed citizens of the world, it is important for us to be aware of the important events happening all around us, in places near and far. Your job is to be on the lookout for events and stories in the news that have a connection to this year’s theme for National History Day: Triumph and Tragedy. Your current event can connect to just triumph, just tragedy, or both. You will need to find two articles that deal with the same topic/event, then summarize and compare the two perspectives. Copies of each article should also be provided (printed, emailed, or shared).

***Articles must be current, within about the last month.*

Where can you find news articles?

- Grolier—You can access newspapers from all over the world here.
- A newspaper—Check with family, neighbors, Westerville Public Library, Genoa’s media center.
- Internet— Many newspapers (like the *Columbus Dispatch* or *USA Today*) can be found online.

Grading Rubric

	Exceeds the Standard ("A"-Quality Work)	Meets the Standard ("B"/"C"-Quality Work)	Needs Revision ("D"/"F"-Quality Work)	Self-Assessment
Sources + ___ / 5	Sources are correctly documented on the chart and at least one of the sources is a newspaper from outside of the U.S.	Sources--two different ones--are correctly documented on the chart.	Sources are not correctly documented on the chart OR you did not use two different sources.	
Summary + ___ / 5	Summaries explain, in your own words, the key ideas of the news event, without giving either too much or too little detail. Summaries are well- written and show evidence of organization and planning.	Summaries explain the key ideas of the news event, without giving either too much or too little detail. Summaries are written in your own words, as though you were telling a friend about what you’d read.	Summaries are confusing, poorly written, or not in your own words.	
Connection + ___ / 5	Clearly explains a connection to BOTH themes for NHD (Triumph AND Tragedy).	There is a clearly explained connection between the article’s content and one of the NHD themes (Triumph OR Tragedy).	There is not a clearly explained connection between the article’s content and one of the NHD themes.	
Analysis of Perspectives + ___ / 10	Analysis shows strong comparative reading skills and ability to recognize bias where it exists. Addresses multiple points of analysis and draws thoughtful conclusions.	Analysis of the articles shows strong comparative reading skills and ability to recognize bias where it exists. (Don’t just “point out” differences; analyze them.)	Analysis shows little depth of thinking or interpretation--simply points out differences.	

TOTAL: _____ / 25

	Article 1	Article 2
Title		
Date		
Sources (which newspaper, website, magazine)		
Summary of article in your own words (Who, What, Where, When, Why)		
How does this news event connect to one (or both) of the NHD themes of Triumph and Tragedy?		
<p>What unique perspective or insight did this article offer? What is the tone or mood of the article?</p> <p>How do the articles differ? What do you think is the reason for or purpose of this? What effect do these differences have on the reader?</p> <p>Does this source seem more or less biased than the other? (Is there information missing, opinions presented as facts, or loaded language?)</p> <p>What is your analysis or interpretation of the differences you see? What conclusions can you draw about these differences?</p>		

