

Incoming 9th Grade AICE General Paper Summer Assignment

In AICE General Paper, we get no sources for our essays. Instead, all of our evidence comes from the world around us. Often, General Paper prompts are related to things going on in the world (environmentalism, politics, technology, etc.), so having a good relationship with checking the news is important.

The following assignments should be completed during summer break – prior to the '26-'27 school year:

1. Over the course of the summer, watch major news networks or visit their website to learn about current events here in the US, as well as internationally. You can use a variety of sources; just make sure that they are credible, and they can be referenced.

2. Make sure the current events are spread out and not all from the same week. A good goal would be to write about two different events happening in the world every week. This should follow a journal style entry, including the date and news source used. You should aim to write about 4- 6 sentences per paragraph and have a minimum of 8 entries from various sources. Do NOT use the same news source more than TWICE.

3. Choose one of the eight events and complete additional research outside of what is presented from that news source.

a. Using the brief research you have completed on your topic:

i. Write an introductory research paper on that topic. The paper should provide a brief explanation about the topic.

ii. No more than 500 words

iii. Do not use AI; This is a diagnostic for your writing.

4. The assignment should be typed and submitted via Schoology after the 1st day of School.

News Source Ideas (Of course you have CNN, FOX News, and MSNBC but these may help you with news from outside the U.S.):

- BBC <http://www.bbcworld.com> <http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice>
- International websites from the London based BBC.
- Aljazeera <http://english.aljazeera.net/>

Qatar based international news and current affairs channel.

- New York Times <http://www.nytimes.com>

News and opinion from serious US publication.

- The Times <http://www.timesonline.co.uk>

Serious UK newspaper. The Guardian and Independent sometimes give alternative views.

- Daily Mail <http://www.dailymail.co.uk>

Can be a very good source of arguments which include a lot of rhetorical and emotional tricks.

- Mail and Guardian <http://www.mg.co.za>

South African news and opinion.

- New Zealand Herald <http://www.nzherald.co.nz>

New Zealand perspective on news.

- Straits Times <http://www.straitstimes.com>

News from Singapore.

- Jakarta Post <http://www.thejakartapost.com>

Asian view from Indonesia.

- Bangkok Post <http://www.bangkokpost.com/news>

News from Thailand.

- New Straits Times <http://www.nst.com.my>

Malaysian source.

- Pakistan Dawn <http://www.dawn.com>

View from Pakistan.

- Asia Times <http://www.atimes.com>

Hong Kong based.

- Times of India <http://www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/>

From India. Useful comment and blogs.

- China Daily <http://www.chinadaily.com/cn/opinion>

From China, with a very Chinese perspective.