**First Writing Assignment:**

**Each week you will be required to write a short analysis of a Current Events Topic. I will choose a limited selection of current events initially but will broaden and allow more student discretion as the semester progresses.**

**Since you will receive these guidelines on Tuesday, and given that this is the first assignment, I only require a half page, approximately 2 paragraphs for the first week. Going forward, the assignments will be around 1 page. This isn’t a great deal of writing in standard, double spaced format.**

**This is not a Junior or Senior level AP English class, so I am not too concerned about MLA or APA formatting. I only require that written assignments are formatted and written with the following:**

**1. Double spaced**

**2. 12 point Times New Roman font**

**3. Standard margins**

**4. Proper and correct spelling, grammar and punctuation are absolutely expected. It is not a crime to be a poor speller or be grammatically challenged. We all have our strengths and weaknesses. But, MS Word has Spell Check and Grammar Check. With access to this tool at SSHS and access to friends, family, and members of the faculty for help with proofreading, there is no excuse for submitting poorly written papers.**

**5. Sources are cited to a limited extent. In other words, I do not expect college level citations and formatting, but if an article from the Winston-Salem Journal is used, then the edition, title of the article, and author would need to be cited.**

**I will be very lenient in the early weeks as we get to understand one another and you “dial in” on my expectations. For now, let’s get started on writing about what goes on in the world. As the semester progresses we will start to make connections with your current events assignments and the historical context of our lessons.**

**I will accept the following sources:**

**CBS, NBC, ABC, PBS, Fox News, CNN, Wall Street Journal, The Economist. All of these sources have a website for access to some or all of their content. We may expand this list as the semester progresses.**

**This week, your topics are:**

**1. Who is ISIS?**

**2. What has happened recently in Eastern Ukraine?**

**3. What is the latest confrontation between Chinese and US military forces?**

**4. Tens of thousands of UAM’s (Unaccompanied Minors) have arrived at the US border in Texas in recent months. Where did they come from and why did they make the journey?**

**You only need to choose one of the topics and write a half page about it. You may write more if you decide that is necessary to complete your thoughts.**

**The due date is Friday, 8/29. You may submit via email or hardcopy. I will have the ability to upload to my website available soon.**