

CURRENT EVENTS RESEARCH TOPICS

ECONOMICS - Group of 20 Summit

TOPIC: At a time when the whole world is in a state of economic turmoil, the Group of 20 summit meeting brings together heads of state, demonstrators, and thousands of staff in London. This group of nations is responsible for almost 85% of the world's economy, but they are motivated by different visions and different agendas. What should be their main focus? Will the nations involved be able to come up with a solution to this economic crisis?

SEARCH TERMS: Group of 20

SPORTS - NCAA Tournament

TOPIC: The NCAA Tournaments for both the men and women are underway. Who are the dominant teams? Have there been any surprises in the winners or losers? What makes these tournaments so well followed by many people?

SEARCH TERMS: NCAA AND basketball AND championships

ENVIRONMENT - Red River Flood

TOPIC: The swelling of the Red River has flooded Fargo, North Dakota. How have the people and government dealt with the flood in Fargo, and how does the reaction compare with the aid for the Katrina flood? What are some of the natural conditions that can determine damage in a flood?

SEARCH TERMS: Fargo AND flood AND Red River

ENVIRONMENT - Earth Hour

TOPIC: All over the world, concerned environmentalists turned off their lights to show of solidarity with the fight to control carbon emissions. Over a billion people were expected to take part in what some considered a vote for the Earth, and against global warming. Did the group reach its goal? What other kinds of activities would help reduce global warming?

SEARCH TERMS: Earth Hour

CIVICS, GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS - Government and the Auto Industry

TOPIC: The United States government has taken more control of automobile companies that have received government bailout money. What are some conditions on companies receiving government money and why would they be imposed? What are some ways in which the intended benefit to the overall economic government bailout funds are being misused? Why could these abuses take place?

SEARCH TERMS: Barack Obama AND automobile industry

SOCIAL STUDIES RESEARCH TOPICS

CIVICS, GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS - Netanyahu's Time

TOPIC: Negotiations for a coalition government have been completed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. How will this new government affect the Middle East peace process? What are some of the benefits of a coalition government? What are some of the challenges ahead?

SEARCH TERMS: Benjamin Netanyahu

CRIME AND LAW - Mexico and the Drug Lords

TOPIC: The United States has offered to fight the drug cartels with Mexico, maintain border integrity and stem the trafficking of weapons to Mexico and drugs to the US. Mexico has refused so far. Would a joint effort between the two countries help in stemming the violence? How are the Mexicans handling this crisis?

SEARCH TERMS: Mexico AND U.S. and violence

CRIME AND LAW - Gunfire Detection System

TOPIC: More police are using gunfire detection systems to identify where gunfire in neighborhoods is coming from. How does this system technology work? What are some of the fundamental problems this system is trying to address, and how does it hope to resolve them?

SEARCH TERMS: "gunfire detection"

ECONOMICS - AIG and Bailout Bonuses

TOPIC: After collecting public funds to stay in business, insurance giant AIG has paid out over \$160 million in bonuses to its employees. What has been the public reaction to this decision? What steps are being taken by government so that public funds are properly used in the future?

SEARCH TERMS: bonuses and government bailout AND AIG

EDUCATION - Education in Zimbabwe

TOPIC: Just a few years ago, public education in Zimbabwe was considered among the best in Africa, with a literacy rate of 90 percent. But given the nation's political crisis, the system is on the brink of collapse. What can be done to bring the system back to its previous quality? What are the long-term effects of a poor educational system?

SEARCH TERMS: Zimbabwe AND education

EDUCATION - College Graduates Going for Public Service

TOPIC: There has been a large increase in recent college graduates seeking government jobs. What are some reasons these jobs may be attracting these young graduates? When have been some times in the past where government jobs have attracted young people, and why were they attracted to them?

SEARCH TERMS: government AND jobs AND graduates

HISTORY - Hawaii's 50 Years of Statehood

TOPIC: It has been 50 years since Hawaii has been a state in the U.S. What were the conditions that brought Hawaii into the union? What has been the history of Hawaii's association with the United States?

SEARCH TERMS: Hawaii AND statehood

HISTORY - Turkey and Armenia

TOPIC: Turkey and Armenia have been at odds for years over the Armenian genocide under the Ottoman Empire, and now a group of 29,000 intellectuals have signed a petition on the Internet that is a public apology to the Armenians for the crimes. A Turkish court has ruled that they will be tried for the petition. How many people were killed during this genocide? What can be done to bring the parties to agreement and eventual diplomatic relations?

SEARCH TERMS: Turkey AND Armenia AND genocide

SCIENCE AND HEALTH RESEARCH TOPICS

HEALTH - Diabetes Epidemic in Saudi Arabia

TOPIC: Doctors in Saudi Arabia performed 90 foot amputations a month due to the high incidence of diabetes. The disease is caused by poor diet, excessive consumption of sugar, lack of exercise, and smoking. Could this news be enough of a health scare to get people to change their habits? What should the health officials in the country do to stop this epidemic?

SEARCH TERMS: diabetes and amputations

HEALTH - Kathleen Sebelius

TOPIC: Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius has been nominated by President Obama to be the next Secretary of Health and Human Services. What qualifications make Governor Sebelius attractive for this job? What are some of the career high points her public life?

SEARCH TERMS: Kathleen Sebelius AND Health and Human Services

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - Robotics

TOPIC: Japan is the world leader in the robotics industry. What uses are robots put to? What surprising robot features are being developed? What future is envisioned?

SEARCH TERMS: Japan AND robotics

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - Shooting Stars

TOPIC: For the first time, scientists have been able to find the remaining rocks of a recent, specifically identified asteroid. What kind of research does this connection allow scientists to pursue? What have been the challenges in the past at making this kind of connection?

SEARCH TERMS: asteroid AND research

SPORTS RESEARCH TOPICS

SPORTS - Evan Lysacek

TOPIC: Evan Lysacek has become the first American since 1996 to win the World Figure Skating Championships. What have been some major skating competitions that Mr. Lysacek has won in the past? How is Mr. Lysacek ranked in the world?

SEARCH TERMS: Evan Lysacek

SPORTS - World Baseball Classic

TOPIC: Japan has once again won the World Baseball Classic and sports fans in that country are celebrating this victory. Is this tournament a truly international championship? How did some of the other teams do?

SEARCH TERMS: World Baseball Classic

SPORTS - Iditarod

TOPIC: Lance Mackey has won his third consecutive Iditarod. How does this distinguish Mr. Mackey in this sport? What are the beginnings of the Iditarod and how did it develop into a sport?

SEARCH TERMS: Iditarod

ARTS AND LITERATURE RESEARCH TOPICS

FILM AND TELEVISION - Horton Foote

TOPIC: Horton Foote was a playwright and screenwriter. What have been some of his most memorable plays and film scripts? What are some common themes in his work and how had he developed them over the span of his career?

SEARCH TERMS: Horton Foote

FILM AND TELEVISION - Movies in Africa

TOPIC: This is the 40th anniversary of the Pan-African Film and Television Festival of Ouagadougou (FESPACO), which is being held in Burkina Faso. Which countries are represented? Which films have won awards and what are their themes?

SEARCH TERMS: Africa AND film festivals

FINE ARTS AND ARCHITECTURE - Shakespeare Portrait Found

TOPIC: A new, long lost portrait of William Shakespeare has been discovered in England. How was it found? How is it different from other portraits of the playwright? How are centuries-old paintings authenticated?

SEARCH TERMS: William Shakespeare AND portraits

FINE ARTS AND ARCHITECTURE - American Galleries Renovated

TOPIC: The American galleries in Washington DC's National Gallery of Art have been re-opened to the public after being closed for a two year renovation. What exhibits are now in the gallery? What is their significance to American art? What renovations were done? Why were they necessary?

SEARCH TERMS: National Gallery of Art AND renovation

LITERATURE - John Cheever Biography

TOPIC: Blake Bailey has recently written a biography of novelist John Cheever called Cheever: A Life. What were some of the common themes and settings for Mr. Cheever's works? What have been some of the revelations about Mr. Cheever in Mr. Bailey's biography?

SEARCH TERMS: John Cheever

LITERATURE - Book Censorship

TOPIC: Writer Carlos Agramonte, author of a novel that denounces the slavery of workers in the sugar cane fields in the Dominican Republic, has been the target of death threats. His books were removed from retail stores. A friend in the military has recommended he leave the country for his own safety. What does censorship do to sales of a book? Why do people try to ignore history?

SEARCH TERMS: Carlos Agramonte

PERFORMING ARTS - Eurovision Song Contest

TOPIC: Georgia has decided to pull out of the Eurovision Song Contest in Moscow. What was the reason? Should politics be a part of the songs picked or rejected in these types of contests?

SEARCH TERMS: European Broadcasting Union and songs

PERFORMING ARTS – Natasha Richardson

TOPIC: A tragic fall has taken the life of actress Natasha Richardson. What are some of the career highlights of Ms. Richardson's film and theater career? Who are the famous actors and actresses in her family, and what have been their most memorable contributions to theater and film? What can we learn from this event?

SEARCH TERMS: Natasha Richardson

PEOPLE RESEARCH TOPICS

PEOPLE – John Hope Franklin

TOPIC: John Hope Franklin was an historian and public servant. What are some of the most famous history books written by Franklin and why are they so praised? What public offices has Franklin held and why was he chosen for these posts?

SEARCH TERMS: John Hope Franklin

PEOPLE – Irving Levine

TOPIC: Irving Levine was a journalist and longtime NBC news correspondent. What was Mr. Levine's main focus of news, and what in his coverage could help us understand today's economic issues? What were some of the journalism issues of the era in which he reported?

SEARCH TERMS: Irving Levine

PEOPLE - Mauricio Funes

TOPIC: The twenty-year rule of El Salvador's Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) has come to an end with the election of Mauricio Funes of the opposition Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) as president. Who is Mauricio Funes and what are his policies? How does Funes plan to lead El Salvador?

SEARCH TERMS: Mauricio Funes AND El Salvador

PEOPLE - Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov

TOPIC: Promising to do away with his predecessor's cult of personality, the new president of Turkmenistan had his picture posted on every government building and even on the national airline! There is even a chocolate with a profile of him engraved in the product. Were his promises just a campaign ploy? How does the cult of personality affect the governing of a country?

SEARCH TERMS: Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov

PEOPLE – Ron Silver

TOPIC: Ron Silver was an actor. What were some of the highlights of Mr. Silver's career? What political activity was Mr. Silver involved in, and what causes did he work for?

SEARCH TERMS: Ron Silver