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SL20. Sharing Current Events

Student Name: _____ Student ID Number: _____

Instructor: _____ Level: _____ Date: _____

For media links in this activity, visit [the LLC ESL Tutoring website for Upper Level SDLAs](#). Find your SDLA number to see all the resources to finish your SDLA.

Section 1: Introduction

When you're having a conversation with someone, you may want to talk about current events. **Current events are important events that are happening in the world in the present time.** Current events are often called news stories as long as they happened recently. You can find information about current events from many different sources such as newspapers, magazines, the TV news, and of course, the Internet. The Internet provides you with access to many news websites such as Fox News, NBC News, and CNN.

Section 2: Finding a Current Event

Another great website to find information about current events is *Voice of America: Learning English*. Every day, the website features current event stories that are happening around the world. From the [LLC tutoring website](#), click the link for English Learners VOA News. Then choose one of the current events of the day.

To the right is an example of what you will see. Be sure to choose a "news story" and not a grammar or English lesson for this SDLA.





VOA LEARNING ENGLISH

ABOUT LEARNING ENGLISH BEGINNING LEVEL INTERMEDIATE LEVEL ADVANCED LEVEL US HISTORY VIDEO

HEALTH & LIFESTYLE April 08, 2021

Bars that Do Not Serve Alcohol Gain in Popularity

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Click "play" to listen.

Bars that Do Not Ser... by VOA

Related

Sewer, Baker Combine to Use Extra Beer in Germany

Experts: Do Not Misuse Alcohol Protection

Once you've chosen a current event, listen to the story and answer the questions below. You can listen to the current event by clicking play on the recording (see the example above). You may want to listen to the news while you read the story below. Then, scroll up and just listen without reading. Then answer the questions.

1. **What** is the title of the current event?
2. **Where** is the current event taking place?
3. **Who** is involved in the current event?
4. **What** are three facts about the current event?
 - a. Fact 1 _____
 - b. Fact 2 _____
 - c. Fact 3 _____
5. **What** is your opinion of the current event? – How do you feel about this event? How does this event affect you?
6. **How** does this event affect the world?





7. Write down three new vocabulary words and their definitions below. Go to the [Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English Online](https://www.longman.com/dictionary/contemporary-english) to find the definition and pronunciation of each word. Be prepared to discuss your choices with the tutor.

New Vocabulary

- A. Word/Phrase 1: _____ Definition 1: _____
- B. Word/Phrase 2: _____ Definition 2: _____
- C. Word/Phrase 3: _____ Definition 3: _____

Section 3: Facts vs. Opinions

In Section 2, you were asked to write down some of the facts from the article and some of your opinions. Do you know what the difference between facts and opinions is? A fact is a statement that is unquestionably true. It can be proven, or supported by observation. For example, "The sky is blue" is a fact. So is "birds have wings," "Oslo is the capital of Norway," and "The Civil War lasted from 1861 to 1865." Opinions, on the other hand, are influenced by the beliefs and values of people and the societies in which they live. An opinion can't be proven true, but informed opinions are often supported by facts.

Below is a list of statements. Mark each statement as a fact (F) or opinion (O). You can check your answers on the last page.

1. _____ We need to eat food in order to survive.
2. _____ Foods with fat in them are bad.
3. _____ Fruits and vegetables are an important part of the human diet.
4. _____ Too many fats can make you sick.
5. _____ A healthy diet is important for general health.
6. _____ Hot dogs taste better than hamburgers.

Section 4: Sharing about Current Events

It is important to know some of the facts about the current event **and your opinion** about the current event because it will keep the conversation going. You don't have to spend hours researching the current event or memorize every detail, but it would be helpful to know the main idea or gist of the article. Additionally, identify facts concerning who, what, where, when, why, and how. Having this information will help you to have a solid conversation. Each new piece of information you bring up will help the conversation to continue.





Also, having an opinion about the current event is a good idea. Not only should you share your opinion, but you should allow the other person to share his or her opinion. Some ways that you can encourage the other person to share his or her opinion is to ask the following questions.

Questions to Ask About Current Events

- A. **What's your opinion about...?**
- B. **What do you think about ...?**
- C. **Do you agree that ...?**
- D. **Do you disagree that ...?**
- E. **Why do feel that way about ...?**

If you share the same opinion with the person you're talking to, you've made an instant connection with the person. This will allow you to continue the conversation very easily because you share similar beliefs and ideas. If you have a different opinion with the person you're talking to, that's okay. It might lead to an interesting debate, or maybe you'll be able to discuss your differences and come to a mutual understanding of or agreement about the current event. Either way, be prepared for both situations. *

Instructions: Now, **watch** a news story **in English online** (Hint: Search for CNN, ABC News, CBS News, NBC News, Fox News, etc.). Answer the questions below about the current event you watched. Be prepared to show at least part of the video to your tutor. Briefly tell your tutor the information below and ask your tutor the questions above.

1. Copy the link to the current event video here.
2. **What** is the title of the current event?
3. **Where** is the current event taking place?
4. **Who** is involved in the current event?
5. **What** are three facts about the current event?

a. Fact 1 _____

b. Fact 2 _____

c. Fact 3 _____









6. **What** is your opinion of the current event? – How do you feel about this event? How does this event affect you?
7. **How** does this event affect the world?

Section 5: What Did I Learn

Complete this table BEFORE meeting with a tutor.

Communication Skill	I can't do 	I can do this 	I can do this 	I can TEACH 
I understand what current events are and how to find them.				
I can separate facts from opinions in current events.				
I can ask questions about a current event.				

Here are some words/phrases I need to practice.

Good job!

- ☐ Now go to the [LLC Tutoring Website](#) and make an appointment with a tutor.
- ☐ Visit the [Virtual LLC](#) at the time of your appointment.

Section 6: Practice with a Tutor!




After completing the self- assessment, meet with a tutor and give this completed SDLA to the tutor. You will have a conversation with the tutor about **the current events you chose in Section 2 and Section 4** (if short on time focus on Section 4). Make sure to provide the tutor with background information about the event, some





facts about the event, and make sure to ask questions of the tutor. The tutor will provide you with feedback in the following areas:

Grading Rubric

Possible Points	Need Practice  (0-1 Point)	Good Job  (2-3 Points)	Excellent Work  (4-5 Points)
Content	Not enough information provided in responses and often does not use correct vocabulary.	Provides most important information in responses and some of the time uses correct vocabulary.	Provides all necessary information in responses and most of the time uses correct vocabulary.
Skill: Speaking	More than 6 mistakes saying words; needs guessing more than 3 times.	Not more than 5 mistakes saying words; needs guessing on 1-2 words or sentences.	Not more than 2 mistakes saying words; needs no guess about meaning.
Oral Fluency	Speaks mostly in phrases, individual words; many pauses.	Sometimes speaks in complete sentences; several pauses.	Speaks in complete sentences; a couple pauses okay.

*Students must receive at least 10 points to move on

Possible Points: _____ / 15

Tutor Comments:

☐ **Congratulations! Keep going.**

You have successfully completed this SDLA and are ready to continue to the next.

☐ **Work on this more.**

You have not yet mastered this SDLA. It is recommended that you complete it again.

Tutor Signature: _____

Date: _____

Section 3 Answers: 1. F 2. O ("bad" is an opinion word) 3. F 4. F 5. F 6. O

