

Lesson Blueprints: Current Events

Lesson Title: What? So What? Now What?

Grade Level: Middle and High School

Essential Question:

How do we use facts to inform our opinions?

Objectives:

Students will...

1. Analyze a current event resource to develop a personal opinion.

Materials:

- What? So What? Now What? worksheet
- Current events article/resource material

Teacher:

1. Explain to students that opinions are quite often formed by the interpretation of facts. Ask students where they have seen or heard evidence of this statement.
2. Distribute the What? So What? Now What? charts and discuss the categories on the chart.
3. Have students examine a current event article to determine how the information provided fits into the three categories.
4. Once they have determined the facts, they will write at least one paragraph to express their own opinion on the subject, providing evidence from the article and their own experience. They are welcome to use the back of the sheet if they need more space.

Conclusion:

Have students share their opinions. Ask them how this practice should inform their opinions on other subjects as well.

What? So What? Now What?

Using a current events article, fill in the chart with required information.

Student Name/s: _____

Date: _____

Title/Source: _____

WHAT? Factual information provided by the source: the who, what, where, when, how.	SO WHAT? According to the source, why does this information matter and to whom does it matter?	NOW WHAT? According to the source, how will this affect individuals/the community/ the world? What action steps are being considered?
YOUR OPINION: Why is the information important? What are your thoughts on how this will or should affect individuals, the community, or the world? Support your answers.		

Current Events: What? So What? Now What? Rubric

Student: _____

	4	3	2	1	
CATEGORY	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Approaching Expectations	Below Expectations	Score
What?	All facts are present and organized in logical order.	Most facts are present organized in logical order.	Some facts are present and somewhat organized.	Little or no facts present; no organization.	
So What?	Clearly expresses source's stance on why event happened.	Expresses source's stance on why event happened.	Source's stance on why event happened is somewhat clearly expressed.	Does not express source's stance on why event happened.	
Now What?	Clearly expresses source's stance on effects and considered action steps.	Expresses source's stance on effects and considered action steps.	Source's stance on effects and considered action steps are somewhat clearly expressed.	Does not express source's stance on effects and considered action steps.	
Your Opinion	Opinions are clearly stated and well supported by more than one piece of evidence.	Opinions are stated and supported by one piece of evidence.	An opinion OR support evidence is present.	No opinion or support evidence stated.	
					Total