Current Events Article Analysis Assignment

Assignment Overview.
Double Daily Grade. Will not accept “retakes”. A sample essay as well as instructions on signing up for turnitin.com and accessing The Economist and The New Yorker are in the syllabus. Hard copies are available in Ms. Skoyles’ room and the library.
Your task is to find a non-fiction newspaper or magazine article to analyze about a current event or issue that relates to our geography curriculum. You MAY NOT use sources such as USA Today, People, Seventeen, or blog postings, etc. The article must be from The Economist, Current History, or the New Yorker. Articles should be written within the last 12 months or they will not be accepted for credit.

Directions on what NOT to include: Domestic politics, like the election races, who will win the primaries, etc etc. Discussions of PURELY sociological phenomena, like sexism or racism, etc. Disasters, like fires or earthquakes. Terrorist attacks. None of these are good ideas.

What should you look for? Information that applies obviously to our curriculum that is spatial and geographic. This class is not a forum for debate on U.S. domestic politics. I encourage you to engage in U.S. domestic politics! It is very important that you form your own opinions about such things. However, you will not do well in this class if you do not think about reading beyond your own country’s issues.

Assignment Specifics.
1. Your assignment must be typed in MLA format (i.e., appropriate heading, correctly formatted first page, one-inch margins, double-spaced, size 12, Times New Roman font, etc.) Left justified. The assignment must include a Works Cited page with an appropriate MLA citation for the magazine/newspaper article. Anything directly quoted or paraphrased from the article must be credited with a proper in-text parenthetical citation.
2. In the first half of the paper, you will write a brief summary of the article you have read. You must embed a significant quote from the article in your summary (be sure to “set up” the source correctly). DO NOT SPEND MORE THAN HALF THE PAGE ON THE SUMMARY PORTION OF YOUR PAPER!!!
3. Your Current Event Article Analysis Assignment should include an explanation of how the issue relates to any topic of geography that we have covered. In doing this, you should:
   a. Name the vocabulary term, model, or theory this applies to. Must be a bolded term from the text or a major term from power points/in class notes.
   b. Define the vocabulary term, model or theory. Be sure definition is correct.
   c. Explain in a well-developed paragraph how 1) this term applies to the article and 2) how this article applies to the curriculum. You should always be thinking “How is this spatial and geographic”? Explain how the term is spatially related to geography.
      i. Example: When writing about TFR in a country, you could explain how this varies between different types of countries, what things cause it to vary, or how it could be brought up/down
      ii. If writing about a disease, write about which types of countries are prone to this disease (epidemiology) and what could be done to stop it
      iii. If writing about a cultural phenomenon, identify the type of diffusion, type of migration, classification of the religion or language
      iv. Basically, for part C of the second paragraph, be DETAILED and specific about how this relates to spatial analysis, and mention a few things from class discussion.
TO SUMMARIZE: The purpose of this assignment is:
1. To increase your ability to research using both print and online sources
2. To encourage you to read high quality feature writing and follow current events
3. To improve your writing by requiring that you write with specificity
4. To prepare you for the AP exam by
   a. To review key concepts found in readings and class discussion by applying them to real world events
   b. To give you a personal library of current events with which you are familiar that you could use in essays on the exam. The exam graders prefer that you answer using real world examples from current events.

MUST SUBMIT TO TURNITIN.COM

Current Events: Please See Directions for further guidance
Student Name:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MLA Heading (5 points)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Works cited in MLA (10 points)</td>
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<tr>
<td>First paragraph conforms to summary standards with detail and several quotations (25 points)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second paragraph term identified (15 points)</td>
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<td>Second paragraph term defined (15 points)</td>
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<td>Second paragraph term related to curriculum in a thoughtful and detailed way (30 points)</td>
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50 points off if not related to our curriculum (about Donald Trump and why he is/isn’t great), US Domestic politics etc.) Articles must always be related to our curriculum, which is spatial and geographic, not about the fights between Democrats and Republicans over local issues or sociological phenomena (such as civil rights movements, sexism, etc)
5 points off for use of first or second person, like “I” or “you” – max 20 points off total.
5 points off for colloquialism, text speak, use of emoji, or other language not consistent with academic conventions.

0 points – Article not written within the previous twelve months.
0 points – Article not from the Economist, New Yorker, or Current History