

**Social Science Department
Grades 9-11
Current Events Reflection**



We continue to hope for reduced anxiety, safety and healthiness for you and your family. As the school year starts winding down and so many current events are swirling all around us, it might be a good time to break from studying history and address some of those current issues surrounding us that will surely be in the history books of future students. Will virtual learning (VL) will be the norm when your kids go to school one day?

DIRECTIONS:

Respond to as many of the prompts or questions below in any format or length that you feel is the best way for you to express yourself. You don't have to respond to all of them, just those that resonate with you for whatever reason. It does not even have to be something from below, it could be any topic that you'd like to speak about and maybe discuss.

Have you been following the news?

What is your reaction to the events that have taken place this past week?

- *Mr. Floyd's death while in police custody.*
- *The protests that have erupted in at least 75 cities across the United States, including Brockton.*
- *Reactions by politicians and the media.*
- *Use of force at the protests by the police.*
- *Or any other aspect of this news, which continues to break?*

George Floyd died in Minneapolis.

- *Why do you think protests have spread to so many other cities?*
- *Have you participated in any of the protests?*
- *Do you know anyone who has?*
- *How do these protests, and the movement to protest police violence, connect to your life and community?*

All of this is playing out amidst a pandemic that has kept much of the nation at home for months, Depression-Era job losses and the public bitterly divided on politics and culture.”

- *What role do you think these three factors — the **coronavirus**, the **unemployment rate**, and the **nation's political divisions** — are playing in the protests and violence?*

It has been said that, “The escalating violence and destruction felt like a warning that this moment could be spinning out of control both because of the limitations of a largely spontaneous, leaderless movement and because, protesters and officials warned, there were indications it was also being undermined by agitators trying to sabotage it.”

- *Do you agree? Why or why not?*

In another article, The Times reports on President Trump’s response to the protests:

“As several cities erupted in street protests after the killing of George Floyd, some of them resulting in clashes with the police, Mr. Trump made no appeal for calm. Instead in a series of tweets and comments to reporters on Saturday, he blamed the unrest on Democrats, called on “Liberal Governors and Mayors” to get “MUCH tougher” on the crowds, threatened to intervene with “the unlimited power of our Military” and even suggested his own supporters mount a counterdemonstration.” And let’s not forget how he ordered aggressive force against PEACEFUL demonstrators in Lafayette Square, in front of the White House, so that he could have a photo-op in front of St John’s Episcopal Church, which he rarely, if ever, attends.

- *What role do you think the president should play when the country is facing a crisis like the current one?*
- *What do you think of President Trump’s response?*
- *Do you think that anything will change — either locally in Minneapolis or nationally — as a result of the protests? Why or why not?*

➤ **What questions do you still have? What concerns are on your mind?**

Enjoy the weekend and enjoy your week next week!

Assignment brought to you by Mr. McSherry