

2024-2025

CANTERBURY SCHOOL SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS

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** Please read this entire document carefully before starting to work on your summer assignment.

When you write your first daily journal and news item summary, ***please send me a copy in an email*** so I can give you immediate feedback and send you in the right direction in case you are headed down the wrong path. My email address is above.

The purpose of this summer assignment is to keep your skills sharp during the summer so that we, as a class, as a team, can hit the ground running in September. Also, your original writing will give me an idea of where you are in your Spanish and will help me tweak the design of the class early on in the school year.

While there are guidelines for this assignment, you can think outside the box and go beyond what the assignment asks. The guidelines express a minimum you can do in order to get credit and a good, basic grade on the assignments (B).

The ideal manner in which to complete the **journal writing** assignment is to log in to the Spanish newspaper or news outlet of your choice every day, or every other day, in order to find an article or video of interest to you. You can visit the Spanish news outlet site you like on a daily basis and pick articles and news items that interest you. Some days you will not find a news item that strikes your fancy or that fits the Curricular Themes outlined below. Make sure you read those Curricular Themes before you start.

The more times you visit your favored news site the more comfortable you will become scanning the site, looking for, and finding appropriate and interesting articles. The first few times you log in to look around and find what you like, it will take a longer time than will the last few times.

You **MAY NOT** use help writing your journal entries. This must be your own work. Perfection is not the goal. Do not use Google Translate, or other electronic translator to complete this assignment. If I determine that this is the case, you will receive a failing grade.

As much as possible, make this fun...fun for you to complete and fun for me to read. Get into it. Offer details.

Journal Writing (Free and formal writing)

Keep a Journal consisting of **10** entries. So in a month, you should write one entry every third day. The journal will be a black and white marble notebook. On each entry, include the date and a weather report for that day. How will the weather affect what you do that day?

When you write, please skip lines.

Begin with a paragraph discussing your activities for that day. You can write as if it were the morning, looking ahead to the day's activities, or as a reflection of what you did earlier in the day, as if you were writing at night. Mix it up!

Each journal entry should continue with a written summary of a news story you find at www.bbcmundo.com or www.elmundo.es. You decide which of these news outlets you prefer. Alternate between written news items and video news items. One day write about a written article, and another day summarize a video story.

* **Specify** if it is a video or a written article when you write * Include **the title** of the news item in your entries.

* The dates of the 10 entries don't need to be consecutive.

As the summer progresses your entries should improve: they should offer more details, become more organized, and flow better. You should use transitions in your journaling. In summarizing the news items you need to **show understanding** of the stories. You can achieve this by **using your own words** to summarize the main points of the article. Try not to use words that I know you don't know.

Conclude your summary by doing **one** of the following (mix it up in different entries):

- make a *connection* with your life or something you know, or - tell me why you selected the article or why it interested you...este artículo (*me interesa / interesó porque*), or
- tell me something you *learned* (*algo que aprendí fue...*) .

There is a sample journal entry on the following page.

The journals will count as two test grades.

Sample journal entry:

28 de mayo, 2018

¡Hoy es un día especial porque es el cumpleaños de mi papá! Hoy él cumple 50 años. Esta noche vamos a salir a cenar con él. Su restaurante favorito es The White Horse, entonces vamos a cenar allí. Antes de ir a cenar yo voy a correr porque me gusta correr y es

importante estar en forma para el deporte en septiembre. Además, voy a comer postre y entonces tengo que quemar las calorías del postre. Los postres en The White Horse son muy ricos!

Hoy hace calor, mucho calor. Hace sol y no hay nubes, pero hace mucho calor. Esta mañana cuando caminé con los perros ya hacía calor y sudé mucho. Es un buen día para caminar por la mañana y quizás después de la cena, como a las 8 de la noche.

Hoy busqué un artículo en El Mundo. Leí un artículo interesante en la sección de noticias Internacionales sobre la situación en Venezuela. La situación en Venezuela es muy mala. No hay comida, no hay agua y no hay electricidad. El Presidente de Venezuela se llama Nicolás Maduro. Nicolás Maduro no parece ser un buen presidente. La gente de Venezuela tiene hambre y no tiene cosas básicas como pan, leche, agua, carne. Además, no hay agua ni electricidad. El país está en medio de una sequía y las compañías de electricidad no pueden generar electricidad.

Me interesó este artículo porque me interesa la política y porque Giorgio Caripidis es de Venezuela. Yo recuerdo que él hablaba mucho de la situación en Venezuela, y habló sobre la situación durante los “Current Events Talks” en Canterbury. La verdad es que no puedo creer que un gobierno pueda gobernar tan mal. No comprendo cómo las personas no están más enojadas con el presidente Maduro. Espero que en las próximas elecciones los venezolanos elijan a otro presidente.

Commentary:

In this model entry notice how the writer addresses her day’s activities. She addresses the weather and what it is possible to do according to the weather, not just say what the weather is doing. She includes an *analysis* of the weather.

Next, she addressed the article she chose, starting with the news outlet she used and the section in which the article appeared.

After summarizing the gist of the article, offering some details, including some information she learned (El presidente de Venezuela se llama Nicolás Maduro), this student offered her personal opinion regarding the article. She made a connection between the article and something she knew about in her daily life. She concluded with the hope that Maduro not be re-elected in the next elections.

THEMES TO FOCUS ON WHEN CHOOSING AN ARTICLE / VIDEO: These are themes that we focus on in the AP class. They are wide-ranging. If you can, try to fit your news items into these themes:

Desafíos mundiales (Global Challenges)

- Los temas económicos
- Los temas del medio ambiente
- El pensamiento filosófico y la religión

- La población y la demografía
- La conciencia social

La ciencia y tecnología

- El acceso a la tecnología
- Los efectos de la tecnología
- El cuidado de la salud y la medicina
- Las innovaciones tecnológicas
- Los fenómenos naturales

La vida contemporánea

- La educación y las carreras profesionales
- Los viajes y el ocio (free / leisure time)
- Los estilos de vida
- Las relaciones personales
- Las tradiciones y los valores sociales
- El trabajo voluntario

Las identidades personales y públicas

- Los héroes y personajes históricos
- La identidad nacional y la identidad étnica
- Las creencias personales
- Los intereses personales
- La autoestima

Las familias y las comunidades

- Las tradiciones y los valores
- Las comunidades educativas
- La estructura de la familia
- La ciudadanía global
- Las redes sociales (social Networks)

La belleza y la estética

- La arquitectura
- Definiciones de la belleza
- Definiciones de la creatividad
- La moda y el diseño
- El lenguaje y la literatura
- Las artes visuales y escénicas