Contemporary Topics Rubric

	DOES NOT MEET STANDARD	APPROACHING STANDARD	MEETS STANDARDS	EXCEEDS STANDARDS
ARTICLE SELECTION -reputable news source with author -Same topic	3 or more of the articles are either off topic or do not come from what is commonly understood as a reputable news source. One or two articles might not have an author but might be informational or editorial content.	1 article might not fit the topic well or is only tangential to the main topic discussed in final reflection. No more than 2 articles will have issues with sourcing or authorship.	Selects same topic consistently for all 4 entries. All articles are from reputable news sources and are articles with a reporter/author.	Selects appropriate continuing topic and is able to expand on identified questions of interest by expanding research and finding articles addressing questions. Shows depth of understanding of which sources are most suited for to research certain topics.
RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS	Answers to more than a few questions (3 +/-) are incorrect. Final analysis text does not cite support for argument.	More than a few (3 +/-) answers lack detail or attention. Consistent errors are made in answers (MLA or context).	Thoroughly and accurately completes all 6 questions for all 4 articles, at times even extending responses conveying areas of greater interest. MLA citation is completed correctly for all 4 articles with only slight or minor errors	Questions are answered in detailed fashion with specific and consistent references to texts. Some answers reveal knowledge or interest beyond that which might be known in articles.
THOROUGHNESS OF PACKET/SELECTION	Leaves more than 3 questions and/or an entire section unfinished	While all answers are mostly complete, packet is missing articles.	Follows examples for submission thoroughly, with articles and text ordered with first article first and analysis last.	Achieves all requirements for "meets standards" and is able to select a topic and appropriate articles independently of teacher correction or support
ANALYSIS (REFLECTION) TEXT	Support is lacking for reflection. Writing might not meet grade-level standards and does not use the support of any references from articles.	Reflection reads in many places like more of a summary than a stating of a position. Reflection only refers to 1 article.	Reflection text follows grade level standards for English writing, including capitalization, paragraphs and spelling. There is a clear thesis statement with a side of the issue selected. Two of the four articles are used in supporting thesis.	Reflection has a clear concise and well written thesis statement which includes an argument/topic/importance