**Current Events of the 1990s Research Paragraph:**

*Now I get the reference!*

**Overview**

Newsflash: Your teacher is a pretty voracious reader. There aren’t many things I’d rather be doing than reading. I’ve read so many dozens of books. But that doesn’t mean I understand everything that’s in a book I pick up; nor does it mean that a book that has a reference I don’t understand is inappropriate for me. As I briefly look up things I don’t understand, I grow as a reader, as a learner, and even as a person.

Some books I read are so full of words and references that I don’t understand that I am constantly stopping to look them up, or circling them to look up later. Sometimes I wish I could have a list of all the things I won’t understand in advance so I could finish the looking-up before I start the book.

That’s what I’ve done for you here. You are going to research any one person, place or event that is mentioned in *Tuesdays with Morrie*. In addition to gaining a deeper level of understanding of the book, you will also obtain a better idea of the world into which you were born.

Instead of your researching every single piece of new information and keeping a journal about it, you will divide and conquer: everyone will get one [or two, depending on the class size] topics to research. Some of the information is essential and some of it will be merely helpful. Who knows – it may even help you in a trivia situation someday!

You will briefly present your information to the class. When others present, you will take notes on their topics.

**Assignment Guidelines:**

* Your paragraph must have at least 5 sentences.
* As this is an informal paragraph, you will not have any sources to cite.
* Use MLA format for the paper, including a heading, header, spacing and acceptable font styles and sizes.

**Directions:**

Part 1: Research factual information about the person, place or events

Research Due: Verbally – the moment we come across your topic in the text

The research you are doing here is relatively informal. I am NOT requiring that you cite any sources, because when you read non-fiction or fiction independently as adults, you won’t be citing your sources to anyone. You will not be turning in a hard copy of your research. **Take notes on at least two reputable sources and take notes in the NOTES section of your writer’s notebook.**

Part 2: Write a paragraph based on your research

Paragraph Due: After researching your information and after your term appears in the text:

You must write a paragraph with a minimum of five sentences, including:

* A topic sentence must state what your topic is.
* 3 body sentences providing details about your topic.
* A concluding sentence must state how the information was mentioned in *Tuesdays with Morrie* and why you believe the author choose to include the information in the book. Remember, you won’t be able to write this until we read it in the text of *Tuesdays with Morrie*. That means you’ll have a one-sentence homework assignment. Not too time-consuming, right?
* Consult your rubric for more specifics of how you will be graded.

Example Paragraph:

*Polio is a serious illness that has harmed or killed millions of people worldwide. Polio is the commonly-used name for infantile paralysis. In the 20th century, many thousands of people got polio as a result of eating or drinking food or water contaminated by fecal matter which carried the virus. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt had polio as an adult, and actress Mia Farrow had it as a child. During the 1920s and 1930s, there was little scientific understanding of the causes of polio, so people everywhere lived in fear that they or their loved ones would get polio. Morrie’s brother, David Schwartz, had polio as a child, and this was a huge emotional burden on Morrie.*

Part 3: Present Your Research and Take Notes

Notes Due: The day we finish the book

You will informally present your paragraph when your topic comes up in the book – which may be in one of the first chapters, or may be in one of the last. Be ready to answer questions from your teacher and classmates. Your paragraph is due the day after your topic appears in the book.

On your current events log, take notes on all other current events covered by classmates. You do not need to use complete sentences on the log. Your completed pages will be graded.

Your First and Last Name

Ms. Mathews

English 11-Hour

16 Sept 2016

Current Events Assignment

Place Your Topic Here