

**Current Events Friday**  
Or  
How to use the newspaper in a class  
without a trip to Curriculum Committee

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**The Class**

Mathematics 017 – Finite Mathematics  
Introduction to logic, sets, probability.

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**The Class, Really**

Quantitative Literacy

- Visual presentation of information
- Modeling with different kinds of functions
- Financial mathematics
- Deductive reasoning in real life
- Statistics in real life
- Voting and apportionment

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**Current Events Friday**

- Every day, each student picks up copies of at least two different newspapers.
- Students read the newspapers (really!) and find articles that relate to the mathematics in the course.
- Each week they select at least three articles to include in an annotated bibliography that they hand in for a grade.

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**Current Events Friday**

Bibliographies are graded on:

- Format – must be MLA, APA, or another commonly accepted format
- Relevance – how relevant the articles are to the course material
- Writeup – writing quality and style as well as quality of analysis.

**BUT THAT’S NOT ALL!**

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**Current Events Friday, Part II**

Every Friday, one student is assigned to lead a class discussion on that week’s articles. This student must:

- Come prepared with at least five (not three) articles,
- Understand the articles well enough to field questions from the class, and
- Have discussion questions ready to lead a class discussion on the articles.

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### What I (the instructor) give up:

- Class time
- Control

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### What I (the instructor) gain:

- Student buy-in
- Class relevance
- Lively discussion
- Great class rapport
- A way to incorporate current events into an existing class structure

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### What they (the students) lose:

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### What they (the students) gain:

- All the same things as me

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### The Class, Really

#### Quantitative Literacy

- Visual presentation of information
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### Topics from Spring 2010

- Airline security
- Legalization of marijuana
- Nielsen ratings
- The Endangered Species Act
- Student loan legislation
- The census
- Teen pregnancy
- The economic stimulus package
- *Avatar*
- Many, many more

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**The Point(s):**

You can do this in any QL class.  
You don't need a special curriculum, or special permission.  
It's not hard.

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**The Point(s):**

**It's fun!**

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