

Political Science 174, Latin American Politics
Current Events Paper. Due in class on Thursday, April 27, 2017.

Due in hard copy, typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 point font. Emailed papers will be reduced by 5%. Late papers will be reduced by 5% each day late.

Choose a topic from this semester's news. Compare the coverage in the *New York Times* with that of the *Wall Street Journal*. Search the Latin American Database for related stories.

The Latin America Data Base can be accessed from any computer on campus at <http://ladb.unm.edu/>. The LADB archives all its news summaries, so you will want to search the archives for relevant articles from the past.

Read the relevant chapter from Skidmore, Smith, and Green's *Modern Latin America* to provide historical background for your issue. If your topic is not focused on one particular country, find an appropriate encyclopedia article or textbook chapter to provide background information.

Google a few key words from your topic and analyze the top ten relevant google hits.

Write a 5 page paper analyzing the news coverage of this issue. Describe the coverage and sources used. How does coverage differ among the sources (NYT, WSJ, LADB, and random google hits). Did you detect clear biases? What differences did you find in the quality of the sources? Which sources seems more/less reliable? Why?

All references should be properly cited following the *Chicago Manual of Style Scientific, Author-Date* system. See the citation guide http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html. Choose the author-date tab. The style sheet states that newspaper articles may be cited in running text and omitted from a reference list, BUT... for the purposes of this assignment you MUST include the formal citation for all newspaper articles in the reference list.

A proper citation to an LADB article looks like this:

Navarro, Carlos. 2013. "Mexican Congress, President Enrique Peña Nieto Reach Easy Agreement on 2013 Budget," *SourceMex, Latin America Data Base*, 23:1, January 9.

(If an article has no author, then use Latin America Data Base as the author).

Grading Criteria for Current Events Paper

	Weak	Good	Excellent
Content			
Clear introduction that offers an overview of the essay			
Clear description of news coverage			
Demonstrates clear understanding of the issue			
Clear analysis of news coverage biases, quality, reliability			
Conclusion summarizes and brings paper to a close			
Other:			
Sources and Citation			
Skidmore, Smith and Green (or other relevant background) cited			
NYT WSJ, LADB all cited			
10 Google hits cited			
Appropriate citations from assigned class readings			
Correct citation style			
Citations incorporated smoothly into text			
Other:			
Writing Style and presentation			
Clear and logical organization			
Virtually no typos or grammatical errors			
Virtually no awkward phrasings or unclear sentences			
Transitions between ideas and paragraphs are effective			
Other:			