CJVTER – Weekly Current Events Discussions

What should you do, and how to prepare?

1. Find a current event (news articles) on the internet, or an academic article on the EU (region, field, politics, study, languages, etc.) that you’d like to talk about. Each group should come up with 2 topics during the semester, for 2 different facilitations.

# The current event must be something that we can discuss, and shouldn’t be related to random events (fashion, random terrorism, suicide, affairs, etc.) about which not much can be said other than that the event took place.

**Example of acceptable topics:**

<https://www.spectator.co.uk/2020/02/the-death-of-the-centre-in-european-politics/>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-51526784>

[https://www.politico.eu/article/european-defense-plans-what-could-possibly-go-wrong-security-](https://www.politico.eu/article/european-defense-plans-what-could-possibly-go-wrong-security-nato/) [nato/](https://www.politico.eu/article/european-defense-plans-what-could-possibly-go-wrong-security-nato/)

[https://www.politico.eu/article/council-president-michel-tells-african-leaders-a-changed-europe-](https://www.politico.eu/article/council-president-michel-tells-african-leaders-a-changed-europe-wants-new-ties/) [wants-new-ties/](https://www.politico.eu/article/council-president-michel-tells-african-leaders-a-changed-europe-wants-new-ties/)

# Examples of unacceptable topics:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-51524278>

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/athletics/51514981>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-51525673>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-51523875>

1. Read the articles (for web articles, have a minimum of 2-3 different sources on the event) or sources and be able to summarize the main points within 2-3 minutes (you may take notes for yourself, but it should be considered a very informal summary presentation). Examine how the article is written:
   * Tell the class why the article and this topic is interesting for both your group, and why it should be interesting for them as well.
   * Prepare at least 4-6 discussion questions (2 questions per article) among/between you (all group members should come up with questions); prepare a **very basic, simple** powerpoint to display your discussion questions to guide the class while your group is facilitating.
   * Are there any very interesting words or phrases, or even words or phrases that were unclear to you? Is the language very complex and formal, or is it simple and informal? Teach **5** words/phrases to your classmates from your articles.
   * Is any of the language used quite interesting and worth discussing the meaning? *For example (from the first day of class): “Europe is sleepwalking into oblivion.”*
   * Is there a video? Is it worth watching, or does it just repeat the same information in the text?
   * Who would be the audience for the article (e.g. the international public, average EU MS citizens, MEPs, scholars, politicians, students of EU studies, etc.)?
   * And lastly:
     + If your group brought academic article(s), what type of ideological ideas does the author follow (conservative, liberal, …socially democratic, etc.) – this is often more difficult than assessing a current event article from the internet.
     + If your group brought internet articles: what type of news about the EU does the website usually publish? Examine the media-framing in the article: is it neutral, or maybe more Eurosceptic versus Europhilic?
2. Upload your article sources as URLs/links to **the “Current Events Discussions/SPRING 2023/YOUR GROUP”** folder in the IS.
3. Each week, all students are expected to participate in the discussion led by their peers as facilitators!

**Every week, last 15- 20 minutes of our lesson will be allocated for going over the following week`s group discussion. Each group is expected to come up with some ideas on articles, vocabulary to teach, questions to ask and a rough outline of their facilitations.**