

# AP European History Current Events Research Assignment

*Objective: Make us all more informed citizens of the world TODAY.*

1. Select a group of 2-4 people and choose a European country.
2. Conduct research on your country. You need to find information on the following topics:
  - a. politics
    - i. type and basic organization of government – please limit the detail (it doesn't matter how many seats are in each legislative body) and leave out the mundane (every country has 3 branches of government)
    - ii. current leaders (whose names will we see representing the country when we read the news?)
    - iii. most represented political parties and their basic platforms
  - b. economics
    - i. type of economy (market, mixed, more socialist?)
    - ii. tax rates and government spending on social welfare (Most European countries are more socialist than the U.S., so look for basic information about their income tax rate – is it more or less than ours? – and how much the government provides for the people – again, is it more or less than ours? What kinds of services do citizens enjoy?)
    - iii. what industries are most prevalent – please be choosy here (don't just copy the long list from the CIA World Factbook), highlighting key industries and connecting to what we might recognize
    - iv. basic indicators of economic strength, such as GDP per capita, unemployment rate, population below the poverty line, inflation rate, level of debt (be choosy here, and be prepared to explain the significance of the numbers ... it helps to look for how these numbers compare to those of other countries, especially our own)
  - c. religion
    - i. demographics, i.e. faiths practiced and % of pop. practicing each
    - ii. relationship between government and religion
  - d. population statistics
    - i. current population
    - ii. current pop. growth rate
    - iii. ethnic breakdown
  - e. language
    - i. official languages
    - ii. percentages of people who speak different languages and where they live
  - f. 3-4 current events – Choose 3-4 of the most important events that have taken place in the last 5-10 years or so. Choose whatever you find to be most important and interesting.

→ Where should you conduct research? Some sites to get you started:

- *CIA World Factbook* – [://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/](http://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/)
- *New York Times* – [://www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)
- *Wall Street Journal* – [://www.wsj.com](http://www.wsj.com)
- *Washington Post* – [://www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)
- *The Economist* – [://www.economist.com/index.html](http://www.economist.com/index.html)
- *BBC* – [://www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)
- *London Times* – [://www.londontimes.com](http://www.londontimes.com)
- *Financial Times* – [://www.ft.com](http://www.ft.com)

3. Put together a PowerPoint presentation that you will give in front of the class. Requirements are as follows:
  - a. The PowerPoint must follow the guidelines that I have provided for all PowerPoints. Key features to keep in mind are: limitation of text (Less is more! Rule of 3!) and incorporation of abundant, relevant visuals.
  - b. Presentation length: 10-12 minutes. If it is exceed 12 minutes, you must obtain my permission in advance.
  - c. Every member of the group speaks for a roughly equal amount of time.