**Current Events Directions**

On assigned weeks, you will be required to read a current events article from a credible source, provide a brief summary, identify and justify the author’s tone, and add a personal reflection on what you read. Each summary must include the following:

* A proper Page Heading
* Title of the Article – in Quotes
* A SHORT Summary of the article read – including at least ONE Powerful Quote from the text
* The Author’s Tone with evidence supporting that tone
* A Personal Reflection on what you read
* A Bibliographic Citation citing from where the article came (use easybib.com MLA style)
* Remember the following: double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 font

Refer to the Current Events example provided.

Each Current Events assignment is worth 15 points in Reading, and 10 points in Writing. Except in the case of an absence, late work **WILL NOT** be accepted!!

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Donna Knight

Dr. Knight

Honors ELA – Grade 8

12 Mar. 2018

“Suicide or Murder? A Young Mom’s Mysterious Death”

**Summary:**

In September, 2010, a young Florida mother was found dead in her home with a gunshot wound to the back of her throat. Police ruled Michelle O’Connell’s death a suicide despite family concerns that Michelle was having problems with her live-in boyfriend, Jeremy Banks, a sheriff’s deputy from whom she was leaving. Paragraph three states that five months after her death, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement opened an independent review of the case, and in June, 2011, the medical examiner changed the cause of death to homicide. After having the body exhumed in May of this year, a private autopsy showed that Michelle’s jaw was “broken by blunt-force trauma before her death, an injury [pathologist, Dr. William Anderson] believes incapacitated her before she was shot” (para. 4). In addition, the gun used in Michelle’s death was a service weapon belonging to Bank’s, and Michelle’s belongings were found packed in her car at the scene. Despite this and other material evidence, including a bullet and blood-stained shirt found at the scene, the sheriff’s department said, “There is no probable cause to indicate Michelle died by anything other than her own hand” (para. 5).

**Author’s Tone:**

Although the authors of this article do not commit to any specific position or tone regarding this event, their words seem to indicate that they are skeptical and believe there is more to the story that the police are not willing to investigate. The article emphasized that there was no note or directions regarding the care of Michelle’s 4-year old daughter, indicating that she was not intending to leave her life. In addition, the sheriff’s department reached its conclusion of suicide in just two days, and failed to change its position despite two medical examiners ruling the death a homicide. I think the authors believe that Michelle O’Connell did not die by her own hands.

**Personal Reflection:**

After reading this article, I felt a lot of confusion regarding the sheriff department’s response to the evidence given by two different medical examiners. How can the police department ignore the rulings of medical professionals? Michelle left behind a young daughter and a family who still do not know exactly what happened on the night of her death. I hope that through the exposure of People Magazine, this case will finally be solved.

**Citation:**

Lesley, Devan Stuart, and Steve Helling. “Suicide or Murder? A Young Mom's Mysterious Death.” *People*, 9 Jan. 2017, pp. 62–63.