Students will complete the following and turn in a hard copy the first day of school.

**Due: Wednesday, August 10th**

**Current Events:** Students will research articles covering the six countries we will be studying for this course: China, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, and the United Kingdom (UK).

Starting June 6th – August 5th, students will find 2 different articles covering each of the six countries, so 12 total articles (2 articles on China; 2 on Iran; 2 on Mexico; 2 on Nigeria, 2 on Russia, and 2 on the UK). **Make sure these articles are current (May 1st 2022 – August 5th 2022)**

Students will type up a three-quarter to one page (minimum) summary of the article he or she just read. The summary must include the following:

1. **Title:** Before summarizing the article include the title of the article and where you obtained the article from. This will suffice for a works cited page.
2. **Summary:** This should include the 5W’s (who, what, when, where, why), the significance of this topic/policy or its ramifications.
3. **Critique/Opinion:** Your own personal view to this current event.
4. **Explain which Big Idea(s) relate to the current event topic (see below).** Explain how it relates to the article.
5. **Include a discussion question** which can be used for class discussion relating to this current event.

You may research your articles online (using proper news sources/websites) in a newspaper, newsmagazine, Pew Research Center, the Congressional Quarterly, etc. Once you have found your article(s), read, understand it well, and write your summary which will include what was aforementioned (1-5). When you are picking an article make sure it is relevant to at least one of the Big Ideas defined below.

**BIG IDEAS**

**BIG IDEA 1: POWER AND AUTHORITY (PAU)**
Political systems and regimes govern societies and determine who has power and authority. They shape the level of legitimacy and produce different policy outcomes.

**BIG IDEA 2: LEGITIMACY AND STABILITY (LEG)**
Political legitimacy is the degree to which a government’s right to rule is accepted by the citizenry. Governments that maintain high levels of legitimacy tend to be more stable and have an easier time enacting, implementing, and enforcing their policies.
BIG IDEA 3: DEMOCRATIZATION (DEM)
Democratization is a process that involves the adoption of free and fair election, the extension of civil liberties, and the establishment of the rule of law. Democratization is a long-term and often uneven process that typically results in increased governmental transparency and greater citizen access and influence over policy making.

BIG IDEA 4: INTERNAL/EXTERNAL FORCES (IEF)
Internal forces, such as political culture, citizen participation, civil society, interest groups, environmental pressures, and internal divisions on class, religion, ethnicity, and/or territory, can both challenge and reinforce regimes. External forces, especially globalization, include the increasing worldwide flow of goods, investments, ideas, and people in a manner that is largely unconstrained by national borders.

BIG IDEA 5: METHODS OF POLITICAL ANALYSIS (MPA)
Political scientists collect data and make observations in order to describe patterns and trends and explain the political behavior of individuals, groups, organizations, and governments. They use data and ideas from other disciplines such as economics, sociology, history, and geography when drawing conclusions.