

JUNTO CLUB

As created by Ben Franklin and explained in his autobiography:

I had formed most of my ingenious acquaintances into a club for mutual improvement, which we called the Junto. We met on Friday evening. The rules I drew up required that every member in his turn should produce one or more queries on any point of morals, politics or ... philosophy, to be discussed by the company and once in three months produce and read an essay of his own writing on any subject he pleased...[these are to] be conducted in the sincere spirit of Enquiry and Truth, without fondness for dispute or desire of victory.”

CRITERIA

- The topic you choose should be current and have state, national, or international significance. NO SPORTS OR ENTERTAINMENT NEWS unless the story leads to a discussion of a larger issue!
- Topics need to be approved one week before presentation.
- Each member of the group (group of 2 or 3) needs to find at least one article on the topic.
- Each article should be from a different source and present another perspective or different information on the topic.
- The group needs to provide background information in the presentation. (What background information will help us understand this event better?)
- Each person in the group needs to summarize his/her article or articles. Use quotes when appropriate.
- Answer the “5 W’s” when appropriate. (Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How)
- Be able to tell us about the event in your own words.
- Be able to locate on the wall map the geographical areas affected.
- Use visuals to enhance the audiences’ understanding of the event.
- Allow enough time for your peers to take notes.
- Be prepared to answer any questions that your peers may have about the event.
- Each member needs to hand in a paper which includes the following:
 - The source or sources he/she used in MLA format
 - A summary of his/her article answering as many of the “W’s” listed above.
 - The articles to your paper.
 - The geographical location of the place.
 - A proposed question we could use on a current events test. What do *you* feel is the most important thing we can learn from your presentation?