

**Current Events Topics: North Africa and Southwest Asia**

**Group Size:** 1-2 Students

**Learning Objective:** Examine why relations between the United States and the Greater Middle East have turned sour.

**Activity:** Create a news story that teaches the class about a significant event that has occurred in the Greater Middle East region within the past 20 years.

**Possible Topics: Iraq and North Africa in the News**

- Desert Storm/The First Gulf War
- Saddam Hussein
- The history of al-Qaeda
- The Arab Spring (in Egypt, Yemen, Libya, etc.)
- The attack on the American Embassy at Benghazi
- The civil war in Syria and the chemical weapons attack
- The War of Terror (Afghanistan or Iraq)
- The real *Blackhawk Down*: American in Somalia
- The real *Captain Philips*: Somali Pirates in the Indian Ocean
- Israel’s relations with the rest of the Greater Middle East

**Checklist:**

- Did you create an intro that identifies the topic to the class and prepares them for what is about to come?
- Did you develop a narrative that is informative and engaging to watch?
- Did you provide a conclusion that explains how this event played a critical role in relations between the United States and the Great Middle East?

<b>Evaluation Rubric</b>	Excellent (9-10)	Good (7-8)	Acceptable (5-6)	Marginal (3-4)	Unsatisfactory (1-2)
<b>Presentation</b>					
1. Creativity and originality are evident. Engaging for the audience					
2. Effective oral communication. (Appropriate eye-contact and volume)					
3. Effective written communication. (Appropriate grammar, punctuation, mechanics and spelling.)					
<b>Content</b>					
4. Information and evidence are accurate, appropriate, and integrated effectively.					
5. Claims and ideas supported by details and examples.					
<b>Thinking</b>					
6. The significance of your news topic is explained.					
7. Analysis/synthesis/evaluation/interpretation shows the Importance of the event					

**Overall Evaluation**

- Excellent**
                 
  **Good**
                 
  **Acceptable**
                 
  **Marginal**
                 
  **Unsatisfactory**

**Grade** \_\_\_\_\_