**Ms. Pierce**

**English I**

**Current Event Assignment**

**Directions**

1. Look through magazines, newspapers, and the internet to find a newsworthy article that interests you. The article must be at **least 4 paragraphs**.

*Some Reliable sources:* New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Times, Boston Globe, Seattle Times, Austin Statesman, Economist, New Yorker, USA Today, CBS, NBC, ABC, and Yahoo.

2. Neatly cut out or print the article.

3. Using a separate sheet of paper, you will complete a written report of the article.

The report must have **2 paragraphs**. One paragraph will be a **summary** of the article,and the other paragraph will be your **reaction** to the article.

**\*SUMMARY PARAGRAPH \***- Without copying from the article briefly describe what the article is about. You should use your own words. Please do not plagiarize. (Plagiarism is the act of copying someone else’s work and passing it off as your own.)

**\*REACTION PARAGRAPH\*** - This paragraph should tell us what you thought about the article.

You may want to answer these questions in your reaction:

- Why did you choose this article?

- How did this article affect you?

- What would you do if you were in this situation?

- How would you have handled it?

- Why did you like or dislike the article?

- Who could benefit from reading this article?

- Can you connect to the article?

- Do you think this article is an important topic for people your age? Why or why not?

4. Each paragraph must have at least 5-8 sentences. Be sure to use complete sentences, and check for spelling and grammar. Include a proper heading, the title of the article, and the source of the article.

5. Staple the article to your written report.

6. Be prepared to present your current event in class.

**\*\*This assignment will be due on Fridays.\*\***

See attached example.

Pierce 1

Genevieve Pierce

Ms. Pierce

English I, Period 5

28 August 2014

Current Event Assignment #1

As reported by CBS News, in December 2012, David Barajas and his two sons (David Jr. and Caleb) were pushing a stalled pick-up truck to the side of the road near their home in Alvin, Texas. Jose Banda, who was driving drunk, plowed into the truck and killed the two boys. When police arrived at the scene they found a distressed Barajas, two deceased children and Banda—with a bullet in this head. The police arrested Barajas and accused him of shooting Banda. However, this week, Barajas was acquitted of the crime because there was a lack of evidence: no murder weapon, negative gunpowder residue test, and no eye-witness.

This current event caught my attention because of the element of vengeance. Though Barajas was acquitted of this crime, it doesn’t mean that he is *actually* innocent. It simply means that there wasn’t enough evidence to convict him. Furthermore, I find the whole concept intriguing and very karmic—a man kills 2 children and then he gets killed. It’s too strange, too planned. This article reminded me of a story that happened in Washington State a few years ago. While walking home from school, a high school student was randomly killed by a gang member as an initiation ritual. However, the boy’s father happened to be an FBI agent. The father used his police know-how to track down his son’s killers and kill them. The father was convicted; however, there is a loophole in Washington State law that allows a lower penalty for crimes of passion. The father only served a few years in jail. Though I do not support people taking the law into their own hands, I can see how a parent could be driven to such extremes when their child is killed in such a heinous and unnecessary way.

Texas dad acquitted in slaying driver who killed sons

CBSnews.com

Last Updated Aug 28, 2014 8:25 AM EDT

**ANGLETON, Texas -** A jury has acquitted a southeast Texas man of murder in the [fatal shooting of a drunk driver](http://www.cbsnews.com/news/david-barajas-texas-man-charged-in-fatal-shooting-of-suspected-drunk-driver-who-killed-his-sons-authorities-say/) who had just caused an accident that killed the man's two sons.

[David Barajas](http://www.cbsnews.com/news/trial-under-way-for-texas-man-accused-of-shooting-sons-killer/),32, cried when the verdict was read Wednesday and he hugged his wife, Cindy, who was also crying. He faced up to life in prison, if he had been convicted.

Prosecutors alleged that Barajas killed 20-year-old Jose Banda in a fit of rage after Banda plowed into Barajas and his sons while they were pushing a truck on a road near their home because it had run out of gas.

Twelve-year-old David Jr. and 11-year-old Caleb were killed. Defense attorney Sam Cammack said Barajas didn't kill Banda and that he was only focused on saving his sons.

The gun used to kill Banda wasn't found and there was little physical evidence tying Barajas to the killing. Authorities said that after the crash, Barajas, 32, went to his home about 100 yards from the crash site, got a gun and returned to shoot Banda.

Legal experts said prosecutors would likely have to overcome jury sympathy for Barajas, who had the support of many residents of Alvin, which is about 30 miles southeast of Houston. Further complicating their case was that there were no witnesses who identified Barajas as the shooter and gunshot residue tests done on Barajas came back negative.

Investigators testified that a bullet fragment found in Banda's car could have come from a .357-caliber gun, and that ammunition for such a gun was found in Barajas' home, along with a holster. Cammack said his client never owned a gun and that tests showed the bullet fragment also could have come from another weapon.

A forensic scientist testified that blood found on the driver's side door and driver's arm rest of Banda's car was consistent with that of Barajas.

The defense called only three witnesses to testify during the trial, which began last week. But prosecution witnesses told jurors during questioning by Cammack that more gunfire had taken place well after Banda was shot - pointing to the possibility that the actual shooter was still at large - and that a search of Barajas' home failed to find any evidence that directly or indirectly linked him to the crime scene.

Cammack also suggested that Banda could have been shot by his own cousin or half-brother, who told investigators that they witnessed the crash but fled the scene. Both testified that they did not shoot Banda.

Cammack also used 911 calls to create a timeline that suggested Barajas would not have had enough time to shoot Banda.

http://www.cbsnews.com/news/jury-finds-texas-dad-not-guilty-of-murdering-sons-killer/