

Weekly Current Events: Posted: 11.21.22

[Wright, "Britney Griner's Swap . . ." \*The New Yorker\*, 12.9.22.](#)

1. Who is Britney Griner and why was she detained in Russia?
2. Who is Viktor Bout and what is his history?
3. Did the U.S. try to gain bring American Paul Whalen back home?
4. How many U.S. hostages are held abroad now?
5. How would you describe the typical amount of time they are held?
6. Name one of the countries that has wrongfully detained Americans.
7. What is unique, historically, about hostages and prisoner swaps?
8. How are hostage situations and prisoner swaps complicated, and how does the public regard presidents in handling them?

[Jalonick, "What Sinema's Switch Means for the Senate," \*Associated Press\*, 12.9.22.](#)

1. Who is Kyrsten Sinema and why is she in the news?
2. Has she changed her political philosophy?
3. Do you expect her voting habits to change?
4. What practical differences will there be in lawmaking, in the national agenda after this announcement?
5. How might this announcement affect things electorally in the future Arizona Senate race?

[Dean, "I Support the DNC's New Primary Calendar," \*Politico\*, 12.8.22.](#)

1. What is the DNC's new 2024 Primary Calendar proposal and how does it differ from tradition?
2. Who is the author of this piece and why is his opinion relevant here?
3. Why does he claim it worthy for smaller states to schedule early in the primary calendar?
4. How does assuring voices for black and Latino members factor into the new schedule?
5. How does money and momentum affect presidential campaigns, and how might the new schedule impact those factors?
6. How does opening the door for more presidential candidates benefit the party?