

Weekly Current Events: Posted: 1.24.22

[Anderson, "US, Colorado Reach Proposed Settlement in 2015 Mine Spill," Associated Press, Jan 21, 2022.](#)

1. What happened in 2015 that has created this situation?
2. What entities are involved in this environmental cleanup?
3. What is necessary before the agreement is final? What do these two final procedures allow for/guarantee?
4. Which bureaucratic agency is involved here? Why?
5. How bad was the environmental damage?
6. What constitutional provisions would cause both state and federal governments to be involved?
7. What is the Superfund and its purpose?

[Kaplan, Rep. Matt Gaetz ex-girlfriend . . . sex trafficking probe," CBS News, Jan. 18, 2022.](#)

1. Who is Matt Gaetz and why is he under suspicion?
2. Why might his ex-girlfriend have testified last week?
3. What is a grand jury and which constitutional amendment provides for it?
4. Why might the government/prosecutors grant immunity to potential witnesses even if they too might be guilty of a crime?
5. Why would this be a federal and not a state criminal investigation?
6. Who is Joel Greenberg and why might he too cooperate with federal prosecutors in this case?

[Burns, "Voting Rights and Senate Wrongs," The Hill, 1.20.22.](#)

1. Which two votes does the author detail at the front of article?
2. Should laws around elections or protecting voting be the jurisdiction of state or federal government? Why?
3. How is the Voting Rights Act of 1965 relevant here?
4. What point does the author make about Senator Romney's criticism of this proposed legislation?
5. What allegation do Democrats and this author make about Republicans and voting policies? Do you agree or disagree with those? Why?
6. Why are Senate Democrats Manchin and Sinema at the center of this? How does the Filibuster play into it?
7. What did Bernie Sanders suggest about Manchin? What was Manchin's response?