

Sarah Hastings, Alonso High School, Hillsborough County

“I have old newspaper stories around my classroom walls and my students suggest what current ones I should keep for the future, which shows me that they understand that they are living through history.”

Sarah was chosen as a 2017 Honorable Mention because of the way she uses the *Tampa Bay Times* to help her students understand the connections between history and current events.

As a world history teacher, Sarah is always looking for engaging ways to connect the past to the present.

When her students complained that some politicians seem to have never taken a history class because they are repeating the mistakes of the past, she challenged them to find examples in the newspaper of problems that may have been avoided with a better knowledge of history.

Students submit a newspaper article about a current event and an explanation of how it connects to a part of history they have been learning about.

Sarah notes, “Some of the connections they have made are amazing and creative. (For example), they took the lessons of our founding fathers not wanting many political parties and of Europe after WWI having weak governments because of too many political parties, and related it to the division in America today.”