

## Lesson Plan: Hot Issues of the 2004 Presidential Election

### Handout #2: History and Recent Developments Analysis Guide

**Directions:**

1. Go to the NewsHour's political campaign website *Vote 2004/Issues* at <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/vote2004/issues.html> and click on the issue you and your group have chosen or were assigned to study.
2. Read the articles in reverse order starting with the HISTORY at the bottom of the page.
3. Follow the guide below to take notes on the questions for the HISTORY and RECENT EVENTS sections. Use an extra sheet of paper if necessary.
4. After you have finished the chart, discuss your findings with members of your group.

When and how did this topic appear in the American political agenda?	
What has been the development of this issue over the past few decades?	
What are some of the recent events surrounding this issue and what challenges does it pose?	
What are three or four sub-issues surrounding this issue?	
What are some of the different viewpoints on this issue?	

5. Be prepared to discuss the following questions in class:
  - A. Do you feel your topic is a major issue in this presidential election?
  - B. Has this topic been a major issue in earlier elections?
  - C. What past actions has the U.S. government taken to address this issue?
  - D. What are some of the challenges or problems recent developments have made on this issue?
  - E. How have the history and recent developments created differing viewpoints on this issue? What are these different viewpoints?
  - F. Identify the major sub-issues surrounding this topic. Record these on the back of this paper.