

Mary Kay Ryan
Korea Lesson Plan
Seventh grade language arts
Marc Blecher, Professor
Oberlin College
May 4, 2010

State of Ohio Benchmark- Use persuasive strategies, including establishing a clear position in support of a proposition or a proposal with organized and relevant evidence

State of Ohio Indicator- Write persuasive essays that establish a clear position and include relevant information to support ideas.

Material needed- Current event article related to either North or South Korea- article must have two sides (a controversy of some sort). Example article attached.

Procedure-

1. Locate article and read together as a class.
2. After reading article, ask students to identify the issue being discussed and to list the two sides to the article. The students can highlight one perspective in one color and the other perspective in another color.
3. Ask students to take a side- which do they agree and why? What personal experience do they base their opinion on?
4. Have students write a 3 paragraph essay in the following format:

Paragraph one- Provide a brief summary of the article and introduce the issue being discussed. The students should include the name of the article, the name of the publication the article is from, the author of the article, and the date of publication.

Example- The article "Secrecy Shrouds Nkorean Leader's Rare China Visit" published online by associated press on May 4, 2010. This article describes the destruction of a South Korean Navy ship by a torpedo launched by North Korea.

Paragraph two- Students will identify the two sides in the article and summarize the opinions presented and the details to support the opinions.

Paragraph three- Students will choose a side and provide reasons why they agree with this opinion.

Evaluation- Final essay- rubric attached

Current Event Evaluation

Paragraph One-

Title of Article, date, author and publication name in topic sentence /4

Brief summary provided (ie. Main idea) /4

Paragraph 2

One side presented with details which support the opinion /4

Second side presented with details which support the opinion /4

Paragraph 3

Writer's opinion and reasons to support the opinion. /4

Grammar/mechanics /8

TOTAL /28

Secrecy shrouds N. Korean leader's rare China visit

[Comments](#)

May 4, 2010

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIJING -- Reclusive North Korean leader Kim Jong Il toured an industrial zone and met local officials in northeastern China on Tuesday, reports said, on a visit to his country's main backer that comes amid growing tensions over the North's suspected role in the sinking of a South Korean navy ship.

No official announcements have been made about Kim's trip, his first journey abroad in years. He is expected to meet with Chinese President Hu Jintao and other leaders. North Korean media typically report on his journeys after he returns home, and China's Foreign Ministry refused to confirm whether Kim was in the country.

However, he was seen by reporters in the port city of Dalian on Tuesday getting into a car and then was driven away in a 10-vehicle motorcade.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency said he visited factories in an industrial zone, about 20 miles (30 kilometers) from Dalian, where Japanese and South Korean firms have operations.

Japanese and South Korean media then reported he left Dalian by highway around 4 p.m. (0800 GMT) headed for the city of Shenyang, the capital of Liaoning province that borders North Korea. They said Kim was dining with provincial officials and would continue by train to Beijing.

The trip comes amid speculation that North Korea's absolute ruler may heed calls from Beijing and elsewhere to return to negotiations on ending the country's nuclear weapons program.

Overshadowing the visit, however, was speculation Kim's hardline communist regime may have torpedoed the South Korean warship in March.

In Seoul on Tuesday, President Lee Myung-bak said the sinking of the Cheonan warship was not a "simple accident," as officials inched closer to blaming North Korea for the incident, in which 46 sailors were killed.

Lee ordered a thorough review of South Korea's military readiness and called North Korea's military "the most belligerent forces" while stopping short of directly naming the North as a suspect in the March 26 disaster.

However, he made it clear for the first time that he saw a North Korean link in the sinking, which followed an explosion in disputed waters near the Koreas' maritime border.

If South Korea declares Pyongyang responsible for the sinking, it could look to China to back new United Nations sanctions aimed at punishing the North. China likely would be reluctant to support such measures, fearing they could spark unrest on its border.

Kim's visit may help reassert traditional ties between the communist neighbors, who once termed their relationship as close as "lips and teeth."

In Seoul, South Korea's Foreign Ministry said it summoned Chinese Ambassador Zhang Xinsen Monday and asked Beijing to brief Seoul about Kim's visit.

Separately, South Korean Unification Minister Hyun In-taek met with Zhang on Tuesday and called on Beijing to play a "responsible role" amid the North-South tensions, according to his spokesman Chun Hae-sung. Chun did not elaborate or say whether China was being asked to convey a specific message to Pyongyang.

The sensitive timing of the visit and lack of advance notice from Beijing drew criticism from some South Koreans.

"I think it's disappointing and worrisome for China to accept Kim Jong Il's visit," Chung Mong-joon, head of the ruling conservative Grand National Party, told party members on Monday, according to a statement. "Chinese leaders must convey our concerns and anger" to Kim over the ship sinking, Chung was quoted as saying.

In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu fended off repeated questions about Kim's presence and arrangements for the visit, saying only that: "The arrangement of receiving a foreign leader is always decided through bilateral consultations."

Rumors of a Kim trip, the first since he traveled to China in 2006 and only the fifth since he took over power from his father in 1994, have circulated for months.

China, which backed North Korea with troops during the 1950-53 Korean War, is North Korea's last major ally and biggest provider of aid, and is widely seen as the country with the most clout with Pyongyang.

Kim traveled to Dalian on Monday after a luxury 17-car train carrying him pulled into the Chinese border town of Dandong, according to South Korean and Japanese media reports. Kim is known to shun air travel.

After Kim left the five-star Furama Hotel on Tuesday, police briefly detained photographers and TV camera crews, including one from Associated Press Television News, at the scene and asked the camera crews and photographers to delete images and video.

By Tuesday afternoon, security at the hotel was significantly reduced, suggesting Kim may have left. From Monday, the hotel had barred all other guests and hung white sheets over lobby windows to block the view from outside.

Copyright 2010 Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.