**Vladimir Putin: Politics and Personality, 2/21/18, due 2/23/18**

Follow each step below to learn about Putin's personality and politics and examine how the changes he has implemented have affected the Russian people. In a Google Doc, answer the questions listed under each link. Please share your answers with Mr. Evans at his World Cultures email: evansworldcultures@gmail.com

**Step 1**

First, get a snapshot of Putin's life by reviewing [a timeline of Vladimir Putin's life](http://www.cbc.ca/news2/interactives/putin-timeline/).

* When and where was Putin born?
* What did Putin say he wanted for Russia in his inauguration speech?
* What are some of Putin's favorite sports/hobbies?
* In 2011 and 2012, demonstrators hit the streets to protest against Putin. What were their claims?

**Step 2**

Next, learn about the controversy when [Putin ran for re-election for his third (non-consecutive) presidential term](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/18/world/europe/vladimir-putin-defends-decision-to-seek-russian-presidency.html?_r=0).

* In what way do Putin supporters say he has helped Russia in his last president term?
* Why are his critics concerned about Putin serving 12 more years as Russia’s president?
* According to the article, why is important to Russia's economy that Putin maintain good relations with the U.S.?

**Step 3**

Now, read what former Russian leader Mikhail Gorbachev said about Putin's leadership in the article, "[An Ailing Gorbachev Makes a Fierce Attack on Putin and His Restrictions](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/02/world/europe/gorbachev-attacks-putin-and-his-restrictions.html)"

* Throughout the article, Gorbachev mentions several criticisms of Putin's politics. List at least 4.
* How did Putin's advisers and other members of the Russian government respond to Gorbachev's criticisms?

**Step 4**

Finally, read [Putin's New Year's Eve Speech of 2013](http://rt.com/politics/official-word/putin-new-year-speech-021/).

* What does Putin say Russia achieved in 2013?
* What can you learn about how Putin feels about Russia from this speech?