

2009 AACP Teachers Seminar • Simulation Exercise

On Wednesday 15 July, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton delivered a speech at the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington DC. As part of that speech, she outlined the approach that the United States would be taking towards the world's major challenges:

We'll work through existing institutions and reform them. But we'll go further. We'll use our power to convene, our ability to connect countries around the world, and sound foreign policy strategies to create partnerships aimed at solving problems. We'll go beyond states to create opportunities for non-state actors and individuals to contribute to solutions.

We believe this approach will advance our interests by uniting diverse partners around common concerns. It will make it more difficult for others to abdicate their responsibilities or abuse their power, but will offer a place at the table to any nation, group, or citizen willing to shoulder a fair share of the burden. In short, we will lead by inducing greater cooperation among a greater number of actors and reducing competition, tilting the balance away from a multi-polar world and toward a multi-partner world.

In this simulation exercise, your team is tasked with briefing the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations about this approach. Is Secretary Clinton's "multi-partner world" the world that the United States ought to be trying to achieve, or should it be using its power in other ways? Should the Committee support Secretary Clinton's vision, or oppose it?

Your assignment is to prepare a presentation of no more than five minutes advising the Committee on the best course of action. While there are no firm guidelines as to content, past experience indicates that the Committee prefers a mix of general claims and specific—even if hypothetical—examples, and that the Committee prefers that claims be supported by appropriate citations whenever possible.

Simulation Procedures and Rubric

Each team will have 45 minutes to prepare a five-minute presentation. This presentation may take any form that is afforded by the resources of the room, including the digital projector to which the facilitator's computer is connected, the room audio system, etc. After the 45 minute preparation period, three teams will be selected at random to present to the entire group. If your team is selected to present and you want to use the room's technical equipment during your presentation, make arrangements with the facilitator.

After each public presentation, the floor will be opened for five minutes of questions from other teams and answers by the presenting team.

Presentations will be evaluated on three aspects:

1. ARGUMENT. How clear is the team's argument? How well-supported is it?
2. ENGAGEMENT. How well does the team anticipate and respond to arguments against their position?
3. EFFECTIVENESS. How persuasive is the team's presentation of its position?

We will be using an online evaluation form (located here: <http://bit.ly/3dKCzg>) to record real-time feedback on all three presentations. At the conclusion of each period of questions and answers, everyone who is not a member of the presenting team is invited to fill out the appropriate part of the form to give their evaluation of the presentation that they have just watched. In the interest of time, please have the appropriate page of the evaluation form open on your computer before the team begins presenting.