



NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

DATE: FALL, 2017  
FROM: LT.GEN. H.R. MC MASTER, NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR  
TO: DHHS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
RE: PRIORITIZING CURRENT FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES

On behalf of the NSC, thank you for studying the foreign policy issues threatening our vital national interests, especially those identified by Americans as the most critical and important threats.

Another federal agency, the NSA, has been secretly monitoring your class website, eavesdropping on your classroom discussions, and scanning your Cornell notes, so we already know that you know about:

- Our four vital national interests
- What the past and present POTUS and national security experts think about current threats/foreign policies
- What the Constitution says about foreign policy powers
- Soft and hard foreign policy tools available to POTUS

Our NSA spies have also recorded messaging among you wondering why you must learn, or even care about such challenging issues. Even though you are high school seniors, your astute questions and articulate recommendations matter to us, especially since it may be the deciding votes of young people like you who choose our Commander-in-Chief in the upcoming election or who may even become the Americans who will be called to serve and sacrifice to make the world a safer place.

Please use the attached instructions and scoring rubric to prepare to write your memo in class.

**FOREIGN POLICY MEMO INSTRUCTIONS:**

You may write in first person/informal tone and include bullet points in your paragraphs. You may use the following resources to write your memo:

- Cornell notes (which include your Soft/Hard Tools Spoke Diagram)
- Current Foreign Policy Issues Chart
- Constitutional Roles Chart

You should choose and write about 2 of the following issues. In addition, you must write about \_\_\_\_\_ as one of your three issues.

- ISIS/terrorism
- Failing Middle East States (Syria; Israeli-Palestinian Conflict)
- Iran’s weapons programs/regional aggression and alliances
- Russia/Putin military aggression, cyber-attacks
- China/economy/cyber-spying/regional aggression
- North Korea/nuclear threat/human rights violations

This scoresheet will be used to grade your memo:

**Foreign Policy Memo Scoresheet**

**Name:**

<b>CRITERIA</b>	<b>ISSUE #1 SCORE: /15</b>	<b>ISSUE #2 SCORE: /15</b>	<b>ISSUE #3 SCORE: /15</b>
Summarized issue using research from multiple sources=5 pts.			
Explained how issue relates to 1 national vital interest=2 pts			
Recommended 1 soft and 1 hard tool POTUS should use= 4 pts			
Asked 2 <b>ASTUTE</b> questions POTUS should consider=4 pts			
Summarized roles of POTUS/Congress in the Constitution			<b>/5</b>
Knowledge/Temperament needed in a Commander-in-Chief			<b>/10</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>SCORE: /60</b>

You will use the following structure to organize and write your memo in-class ONLY.

## FOREIGN POLICY MEMO

FROM (YOUR NAME):

TO: POTUS and the NSC  
RE: U. S. FOREIGN POLICY  
DATE: FALL, 2017

**INTRO:** Thank the president (refer to him as “Mr. President”) for the opportunity to advise him on three foreign policy issues threatening our nation’s vital interests (then list the three issues you’ve chosen to write about). You must write about \_\_\_\_\_ as one of your three issues.

### FOREIGN POLICY ISSUE #1

- Summarize what you learned about the issue from the unit PowerPoint, video clips, speeches, debates, and editorials.
- Explain how this issue relates to *at least* one of our nation’s four vital interests.
- Recommend *at least* 1 “soft” and 1 “hard” tool POTUS should use.
- Ask *at least* 2 astute questions the president should consider before taking action.

### FOREIGN POLICY ISSUE #2

- Summarize what you learned about the issue from the unit PowerPoint, video clips, speeches, debates, and editorials.
- Explain how this issue relates to *at least* one of our nation’s four vital interests.
- Recommend *at least* 1 “soft” and 1 “hard” tool POTUS should use.
- Ask *at least* 2 astute questions the president should consider before taking action.

### FOREIGN POLICY ISSUE #3

- Summarize what you learned about the issue from the unit PowerPoint, video clips, speeches, debates, and editorials.
- Explain how this issue relates to *at least* one of our nation’s four vital interests.
- Recommend *at least* 1 “soft” and 1 “hard” tool POTUS should use.
- Ask *at least* 2 astute questions the president should consider before taking action.

**CONSTITUTIONAL FOREIGN POLICY ROLES:** Summarize the foreign policy roles of Congress and POTUS according to the U.S. Constitution.

**KNOWLEDGE AND TEMPERAMENT OF A COMMANDER-IN CHIEF:**  
Recommend qualities needed in a Commander-in-Chief