

Student Worksheet

- **Breakout Session II**
- **Futures Presentations**

The Policy Experts (All students will begin the Session II breakout in one of these groups.)

You are working in subgroups based on the global issue you addressed in your Session I breakout (immigration, trade, environment, terrorism, proliferation). Your job is to articulate important connections between the global issue you examined in the earlier session and your assigned Future. Begin your discussion by identifying the “worldview” from which this Future emerges.

- What do proponents of this Future see as the major problem in international relations today?
- How will your Future address this problem?
[Remember: You are advocating for this Future. Do not spend too much time critiquing the Future.]
- What recommendations would proponents of your Future make for policy concerning the issue you examined in your Session I breakout?
- Are there lessons from history to support the policy recommendations you are making?

After the “Policy Expert” groups have been meeting for approximately 10 minutes, two students (from different issue groups) will be asked by the breakout leader to serve as “Presenters” for your group’s assigned Future. Their job will be to present an overview of the Future as an introduction. The rest of the group will continue with its preparation.

Following the introduction of your Future by the two designated Presenters, you should be ready to respond to questions posed by the Senate Foreign Relations Panel. As policy experts on a specific issue, you will be the first students called upon to respond to questions related to your area of expertise. It will be through your responses to questions that the full implications of your assigned Future will become clear to others.

After you have addressed the questions above, take some time in your issue group to anticipate the questions that will be addressed to you. You should prepare effective responses that clarify your Future’s position. It will help to review the other Futures as described in “The Futures in Brief.” What questions might supporters of these other Futures ask of your group? From the perspective of your assigned Future, how can you best make your Future clear in response to their concerns?

- **Question 1:**

Response:

- **Question 2:**

Response:

The Presenters (two students)

Serving as advocates for your assigned Future, it is your responsibility to communicate the main vision and priorities of this Future in the full assembly following this breakout. This should be a summary of your Future; your colleagues will provide the substantive positions of the Future concerning the issues studied. You will have three minutes to present.

Procedure:

You will together to prepare a succinct, persuasive introduction to your assigned Future, highlighting the values upon which it is based and what it offers Americans in the next decade and beyond. This presentation should respond to the following:

1. What do proponents of this Future see as the major problem in international relations today? How will this Future address this problem? *[Remember: You are advocates for this Future.]*

2. What values underlie this Future?

3. What are the strongest arguments in favor of this Future? Why should Americans embrace these values and this direction for foreign policy over the next decade and beyond?

The Futures Presentations

For the presentations, the full assembly will be organized by Future (all Future 1 students together, etc.). Each Future group will have three minutes for its initial presentation. After the two presenters have presented a summary of the Future, the rest of the Future group (policy experts) should take responsibility for responding to questions from the Senate Foreign Relations Panel. Remember, you are presenting this Future as an advocate.

NOTE: During the “Conversation with Elected Officials and Policymakers” that follows the Futures presentations, you will have an opportunity to express your own views as you discuss the issues in this final forum of the day.

Futures in Brief

Future 1: Lead the World to Democracy

The United States is the most powerful nation in the world. The world depends on us to maintain peace and order and to support liberal democratic principles. Today's international system was built around American ideals and power. Neither collective security nor the United Nations can be counted on to deal with the threats to this system. We must devote the necessary resources to build an international moral order and a vigorous international economy grounded in American political and economic principles and we must protect this international system from any threats, even if pressuring other governments to adopt American democratic principles may spark international criticism that the United States is ushering in a "Pax Americana."

Future 2: Protect U.S. Global Interests

We live in a dangerously unstable world. U.S. foreign policy must strive for order and security. International terrorism, chaos in the Middle East, rising poverty in the developing world, and global economic competition have created an international minefield for U.S. leaders. We need to focus our energies on protecting our own security, cultivating our key trade relationships, ensuring our access to crucial raw materials, and stopping the spread of nuclear weapons to unfriendly nations or to terrorist networks. We must be selective in our involvement in international affairs and be prepared to protect ourselves—at home and abroad—against any threats to our security and prosperity, even if this policy may breed resentment and lead to an angry backlash against us.

Future 3: Build a More Cooperative World

We live today in an interdependent and interconnected world. We cannot stand alone. National boundaries can no longer halt the spread of AIDS, international drug trafficking, terrorism, and other global scourges. We must take the initiative to bring the nations of the world together and play a leadership role in strengthening the UN's role in international security and responding to other global problems such as environmental pollution, financial crises, refugees, and AIDS. We must be willing to give up a portion of our independent authority, or sovereignty, to the UN and offer our military, intelligence, and economic support to UN-led initiatives, even if this may limit our ability to use military force unilaterally outside of North America.

Future 4: Protect the U.S. Homeland

The attacks of September 11, 2001 have made us feel a vulnerability not felt in more than fifty years. We have spent hundreds of billions of dollars a year defending our allies in western Europe and East Asia and distributed tens of billions more in foreign aid to countries throughout the developing world. These high-profile foreign policy programs have only bred resentment against us and made us enemies. It is time to sharply scale back our foreign involvement and turn our attention to the real threats facing Americans: a sagging economy, decaying schools, a shaky health care system, and inadequate resources to protect against terrorism, even if this may upset the worldwide balance of power and cause insecure countries to seek nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons.