

Group 1: Domestic Actors in Syria

Instructions: Your teacher has assigned you to research the views of domestic actors in Syria, including the Syrian government and various opposition groups. Work with your group members to answer the questions below. Be prepared to report back to the class.

1. How has this conflict affected people in Syria? (For example, look for information about casualty and refugee statistics, the ways in which the conflict has disrupted daily life, etc.)

2. a. What are the major opposition groups in Syria? List at least three.

b. What do they want?

3. a. How has the Syrian government responded to opposition?

b. What do these actions indicate about the goals of the Syrian government?

4. What types of international intervention (i.e. economic sanctions, diplomatic pressure, military intervention, etc.) are Syrian opposition groups in favor of? What types of intervention do they oppose? Note that groups may have different views.

5. How might this conflict continue to escalate within Syria?

Group 2: Syria's Neighbors

Instructions: Your teacher has assigned you to research the views of Syria's neighbors. Work with your group members to answer the questions below. Be prepared to report back to the class.

1. Fill in the chart below. In the first column, list the five countries that border Syria. In the second column, note each country's position on the conflict. For example, does it support Syria's government, the opposition, or has it tried to remain neutral? Be sure to note whether there is disagreement about whom to support. In the last column, list the number of Syrian refugees living in each country.

Neighbor	Position on the Conflict	Number of Refugees

2. How has the conflict in Syria affected neighboring countries? Be sure to consider economic effects, refugees, spillover violence, etc.

3. What are possible risks for Syria's neighbors if this conflict continues to escalate?

Group 3: International Community A

Instructions: Your teacher has assigned you to research international views on the conflict. In your research, focus on members of the international community that are NOT neighbors of Syria. Work with your group members to answer the questions below. Be prepared to report back to the class.

1. Who are the Syrian government’s most important allies?

2. What countries have spoken out against the Syrian government? List at least five.

3. What have the Arab League and the United Nations done to address this crisis? In the chart below, list at least three measures that each organization has taken in response to this crisis.

International Organization	Measures Taken
Arab League	
United Nations	

4. What are the major challenges preventing successful international intervention?

Name: _____

Group 4: International Community B

Instructions: Your teacher has assigned you to research international views on the conflict. In your research, focus on members of the international community that are NOT neighbors of Syria. Work with your group members to answer the questions below. Be prepared to report back to the class.

1. Who are the Syrian government's most important allies?
2. What countries have spoken out against the Syrian government? List at least five.
3. What individual actions have countries taken in response to the conflict in Syria? In the chart below, list three or four examples. In the first column, write the name of the country. In the second column, note whether they support Syria's government or Syria's opposition groups. In the last column, explain what type of action they have taken (for example, economic sanctions, military support, financial support, etc.)

Country	Supports	Action Taken

6. What concerns does the international community have about the escalation of this crisis?