

Overview

Students will assume the role of advisor to a world leader, read a scenario, and make a policy recommendation.

Length

One–two classes

Materials

- [Global Health \(World101\)](#)
- Handout (attached)

Instructional Plan

- Assign one or more scenarios from the handout. Have students, alone or in groups, give an oral presentation, as if briefing the president of their country on what to do with the situation.
- Lead a full-class discussion on the difficulties they faced in addressing global health issues.

Extension and Additional Resources

- A writing assignment could supplement or replace the oral presentations.

Scenarios

1. You are an advisor to the president of a tropical African country with little wealth. The president wants to start programs to combat the high rates of AIDS and malaria in the country and needs to decide how to fund them. The programs would take up a significant chunk of the government's budget, but other programs could be cut to find funding. Alternatively, the U.S. government has expressed a willingness to provide foreign aid to support the programs, but such funding would be up for review every year. Which is a better funding strategy, and why?
2. You are an advisor to the president of the United Arab Emirates, which contains Abu Dhabi and Dubai, major transit hubs for air travel between Europe and Asia. You have recently received reports of a new, highly deadly flu strain that has emerged in Southeast Asia.

- Should the UAE cancel all flights to and from Southeast Asia, even though that would cause significant economic loss? What other factors should the president consider in making a decision?
3. You are an advisor to the president of the United States, the only developed country in the world that does not guarantee universal health coverage. What are the benefits and drawbacks of establishing a system of universal health coverage in the United States? If a plan were implemented, would you suggest a single-payer system or multi-payer system? Why?
 4. You are an advisor to the president of the Philippines, a country with a socio-demographic index in the middle range. As your population has begun to gain wealth and a middle class has emerged, noncommunicable diseases have quickly risen in prevalence. What options would you suggest to the president to combat this trend?
 5. You are an advisor to the president of a South American country that is continuing to fight the Zika virus. A pharmaceutical company based in Europe has recently announced that it has developed a drug for Zika. This newly developed drug is patented, and the company is selling the drug at a high price. The company is willing to sell it to your health ministry, but the government cannot afford to buy a supply large enough to treat all affected patients. A local company has analyzed the drug, announced that it has figured out how to produce the drug itself, and is willing to ignore the patent. The local company will sell the drug to the government at a much lower cost that will allow the government to treat all affected patients. The European country, citing intellectual property treaties, is threatening economic sanctions if your government ignores the patent and purchases the drug from the local producer. Ignoring the patent will allow the government to treat all affected patients, but it will harm the country diplomatically and may discourage companies from researching new drugs in the future. Where should the government buy the drug from?