

Overview:

Students consider U.S. foreign aid policy and criticisms of it, then propose a policy and write an op-ed article supporting that policy.

Length:

Two–three classes

Materials:

1. Have students read “A Brief History of U.S. Foreign Aid” and watch or read “Foreign Aid and Developing Economies.”
2. Have students brainstorm ways in which the United States could better administer foreign aid. Possibilities include the following:
 - Focusing efforts on a particular type of aid, such as
 - humanitarian aid
 - development aid
 - military aid
 - political and economic aid
 - Focusing efforts on a particular country or region
 - Focusing efforts on a particular type of country, such as
 - only poor countries
 - only democratic countries
 - Instituting safeguards, such as
 - guards against corruption
 - safeguards for individual rights
 - safeguards for the environment
3. Assign students to write an opinion piece supporting their position

Extension:

The reading list contains several additional readings that could enrich the discussion here, including articles by Richard Aidoo and Malaka Gharib, and books by William Easterly, Charles Kenny, and Nina Munk.