

Overview:

Model Diplomacy is a free classroom simulation of either the U.S. National Security Council or the UN Security Council that takes place both online and in the classroom in a blended learning environment. It presents hypothetical situations based on real issues of the past and present. It has several cases that include a development angle.

Materials:

[The Model Diplomacy website](#)

Instructional Plan:

Model Diplomacy cases that include a development angle include:

- **Boko Haram in Nigeria**
Boko Haram, a radical Islamist movement, is waging an insurgency against the Nigerian government. Its campaign, estimated to have killed at least twenty thousand people in recent years, threatens the stability of Nigeria, a major oil producer and Africa's most populous country. Following a massive Boko Haram attack in Lagos, Nigeria's president has requested that the United States sell heavy military equipment to the country. The National Security Council needs to advise the president on whether to authorize the sale, which is currently prohibited under U.S. law because of the Nigerian military's reported human rights abuses.
- **Collapse in Venezuela**
This case is set in June 2018. After an economic collapse sparks popular protests, the president of Venezuela flees the country. Two members of the ruling party claim the presidency, but neither is able to stabilize the economy or establish full control. Meanwhile, protests continue, factions of the military abandon the government, violence escalates, and drug trafficking and paramilitary activity increase. The National Security Council (NSC) meets to weigh the situation, which both poses threats to the United States and offers the chance to improve relations with an influential regional power and major oil exporter. To recommend a course of action, NSC members must consider how to prioritize and pursue the U.S. interests at stake, including economic stabilization, regional security, a stable flow of oil, protection of human rights, and restoration of

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- democratic governance and the rule of law.
- Infectious Disease Outbreak in Colombia
News reports have begun to trickle out of northern Colombia, near the border with Venezuela, about a disease that is spreading fast among nearby farm workers. The Colombian government is working with the Pan American Health Organization, the regional office of the World Health Organization, which is, in turn, pressing the Venezuelan government to allow an assessment team to visit. Fearful that news of the latest outbreak may lead to an influx of refugees, especially from Colombia and Venezuela's urban centers, neighboring countries are moving quietly to secure their borders and to restrict trade and travel with the two countries. The president has called a National Security Council meeting to discuss a response, particularly regarding whether and how to restrict travel to the United States.
- Humanitarian Intervention in South Sudan
Rival South Sudanese factions have fought a civil war since the end of 2013, causing mass displacements, tens of thousands of deaths, and widespread hunger. Negotiations between the leaders of these factions are stalled, and South Sudan's dry season approaches, signaling intensified fighting and a humanitarian crisis of potentially historic proportions. The president has asked the National Security Council for options on whether and how the United States should pursue a humanitarian intervention in or around South Sudan.
- Global Climate Change Policy
The president of the United States plans to attend a major upcoming international climate summit. Members of the National Security Council will need to consider a strategic goal for the summit, bearing in mind the potential impact of climate change, the potential effects of proposed mitigation measures, and the need to secure international support for the U.S. approach from both developed and developing countries.