

Overview

Students will assume the role of advisor to the leader of a sub-Saharan African country.

Length

One-two classes.

Materials

[Sub-Saharan Africa \(World101\)](#)

Handout (attached)

Instructional Plan

- Assign students—or have them choose—countries from sub-Saharan Africa to represent.
- 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 patterns that emerge about issues that the region faces.

Extension and Additional Resources

- A writing assignment could replace or be added to the presentations.

Policy Brief Situations

1. Your government has been approached by a Chinese firm that wishes to explore for minerals and, if it finds any, build a mine. The firm, which has ties to the Chinese government, is asking for necessary permits and a special arrangement that guarantees the firm a high percentage of profits. In return, it promises to build roads from the mine to a nearby port and to hire most of its workforce locally. Should the government make this deal?
2. Your country is facing from attacks from an Islamist militant group. The militant group has recently released some videos on YouTube pledging allegiance to a high-profile Islamist group based in the Middle East. The United States, worried about this new alliance, wants to send Special Forces to fight the militants in your country. Should the government give permission?
3. Your country has recently seen a large influx of migrants from a neighboring country, due to political instability and a weak economy. What are some issues that your government should consider in deciding how to handle this arrival?
4. Some people in your country want to propose a single official religion and a single official language. What are some potential issues with this proposal that your government should be aware of?