

Overview

Students will assume the role of advisor to the leader of a country in the Middle East or North Africa, read a scenario, and make a policy recommendation.

Length

One–two classes

Materials

[Middle East and North Africa \(World101\)](#)

Handout (attached)

Instructional Plan

1. Assign or have students choose countries from the Middle East and North Africa to represent.
2. Assign one or more scenarios from the handout. Have students, alone or in groups, give an oral presentation, as if briefing their country's leader on what to do with the situation.
3. Lead a full class discussion on patterns that emerged regarding issues the region faces.

Extension and Additional Resources

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

Scenarios

1. Iran and Saudi Arabia are often seen as rivals trying to develop spheres of influence in the region. The leader of your country would like you to prepare a report on relations with both countries and recommendations for changes in your country's foreign policy toward Iran and Saudi Arabia.
2. Many countries in the Middle East and North Africa have close relationships—especially security relationships—with the United States or Russia. The leader of your country would like you to prepare a report on relations with both countries and recommendations for changes in your country's foreign policy toward the United States and Russia.
3. The leader of your country would like a report on your country's relations with Israel and recommendations for changes in policy. Be sure to consider public opinion, national security, and diplomatic and geopolitical implications.
4. Depending on the country, choose one of the following:
 - a. A petroleum company has recently discovered a significant oil reserve in your country's territory. The leader of your country wants to know how this discovery is likely to affect the country economically and geopolitically.
 - b. Recent reports suggest that your country's oil reserves will run out in a few years—much sooner than expected. The leader of your country wants to know how this is likely to affect the country economically and geopolitically.
5. Consider how autocratic your country is. What would be the benefits for the government and for the country as a whole of becoming more democratic? What forces are pushing the government to maintain current levels of autocracy? What do you suggest the leader of your country do?
6. What opposition movements or potential opposition movements does your country face? What are their grievances? How much of a threat do they pose to the government? What policies do you suggest the leader of your country enact to address the opposition?