

Overview

Students will read about the history of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as well as the challenges it currently faces and make an argument about NATO's future.

Length

Two-three classes.

Materials

- [NATO: The World's Largest Alliance](#) (World101)
- [Global Era Issues](#) and [Regions of the World](#) (World101)

Instructional Plan

1. Assign students to read "NATO: The World's Strongest Alliance," paying particular attention to how NATO has changed since the end of the Cold War.
2. Have students use "Global Era Issues," "Regions of the World," or other sources to brainstorm the security challenges facing NATO member countries today. Have the class share on a whiteboard or through collaborative software such as Padlet or Google Docs.
3. Have each student vote for the top two or three challenges, in their opinion, among the challenges that the class has brainstormed. If there is significant disagreement, some discussion or guidance may be needed. The class need not reach consensus.
4. Assign students to individually choose one or two top challenges and write an op-ed arguing whether NATO is suited to meet their chosen challenge.