

Overview:

Model Diplomacy is a free classroom simulation of either the U.S. National Security Council (NSC) 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 from past and present. All of the cases ask students to consider using multiple tools of foreign policy.

Furthermore, Model Diplomacy has created a series of nine short pop-up cases to accompany this module. Each pop-up case offers brief background on one tool and presents a fictional scenario that asks students to consider whether and how to use that tool.? Which are the least expensive?

Materials:

For full cases, see the [Model Diplomacy website](#).

Pop-up cases:

- [Sanctions](#)
 - Sanctions offer governments a way to pressure or punish others with little cost or risk to themselves. However, they can cause collateral damage and are not always successful in changing their target’s behavior. In this hypothetical scenario, the United States needs to decide how best to apply sanctions to influence a crisis abroad.
- [Economic Statecraft: Foreign Assistance](#)
 - Foreign aid is often about more than assisting other countries—it can also advance the foreign policy priorities of the donor country. In this hypothetical scenario, the United States needs to decide whether to help a country in crisis and, if so, how to best employ various types of foreign aid.
- [Trade Policy](#)
 - Countries can advance both economic and foreign policy goals through trade incentives, or the threat of trade restrictions. In this hypothetical scenario, the United States needs to decide how to respond when a rivalry between growing trade partners threatens regional stability.

Tools of Foreign Policy: Model Diplomacy Simulations

- [Armed Force](#)
 - Armed force is a powerful tool of foreign policy, but one that carries immense costs and risks. In this hypothetical scenario, the United States needs to decide whether armed force is the best tool to stop a crisis and, if so, how to deploy its military to achieve its objectives while minimizing risks.
- [Deterrence](#)
 - Sometimes the threat of severe consequences is enough to deter a threat without actually requiring governments to take action. But deterrence requires credibility to be effective. In this hypothetical scenario, the United States needs to decide how best to use deterrence to block threats against itself and its allies.
- [Arms Control](#)
 - Arms control agreements can make wars less likely, or less harmful when they do break out. However, they can require countries to voluntarily compromise their military strength without certainty that adversaries will do the same. In this hypothetical scenario, the United States needs to decide how to use arms control to reduce the threat of new types of weapons.
- [Peacekeeping](#)
 - Peacekeeping missions face limitations depending on a conflict's scale and scope. In this hypothetical scenario, the United States needs to determine whether it should support a peacekeeping mission in a country riddled with ethnic conflict.
- [Intelligence: Covert Action](#)
 - The secret nature of covert action makes it both an attractive and risky foreign policy tool. In this hypothetical scenario, the United States needs to decide if and how it should pursue covert action to address a national security threat.
- [Soft Power](#)
 - Countries cultivate soft power by promoting their cultures and ideologies to the world. This can build admiration and respect that makes working with other countries easier, but the benefits of soft power are often hard to define and take time to accrue. In this hypothetical scenario, the United States needs to decide whether and how it can enhance its standing in the world to help pursue its interests.