

**Overview:**

Students will use a graphic organizer to identify the different elements that go into making a foreign policy decision from history or the present day.

**Length:**

One class.

**Materials:**

- [U.S. Foreign Policy](#) (World101)
- Access to current or historical newspapers or other news sources
- Graphic organizer (attached)

**Instructional Plan:**

1. Have students read about the making of U.S. foreign policy, paying particular attention to all the different factors in how foreign policy is made.
2. Have students, alone or in small groups, select a foreign policy decision. A current event or decision from the last few months could be easiest, as students will be more familiar, but they could choose a historical event too.
3. Have students read about the decision in the newspaper or other news sources, using the attached graphic organizer to take notes on all the factors that shaped the policy and the roles they played.

# U.S. Foreign Policy: Charting Foreign Policy

For your foreign policy decision, research and use the graphic organizer below to identify the roles played by each of the following factors in the making of U.S. foreign policy.

Foreign policy decision:

President		Congress	
NSC		NSC members	
Journalism	Public Opinion	Special interest groups	Think tanks
Connection to domestic policy			