

# Factors Influencing Foreign Policy

*An International Symposium Simulation*

---

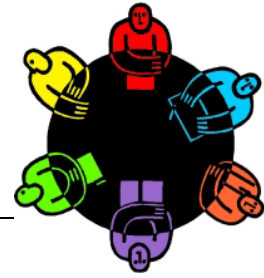


1. Divide yourselves into five equally sized groups. Each group will receive a different country card with a short description of their imaginary country.
  - Name your country
  - Discuss the general realities of your country including its strengths and vulnerabilities
  - Appoint an Ambassador
  - Devise a creative way to present your country to the rest of the class
2. Various “world” scenarios will be read out to the class. After each scenario, talk within your country groups and come up with a foreign policy statement that will be presented to the other groups. Your statement can be directed towards a particular country, a group of countries or to the world at large.
3. Each country then meets to debrief. Each receives a flipchart page and creates a list of what needs to be taken into account when countries form their foreign policies. When finished, the groups share, compare, and contrast lists.
4. Think about the situation you have just been through and how realistic or unrealistic it was. You might realize that, although you experienced the key factors in foreign policy formulation, the situation was very simplified.
5. Analyze the list of factors influencing foreign policy. Spend a short time in pairs filling in the “Canadian Examples” column. Pairs then group into fours and compare lists. Finally, the class takes up lists in a whole group discussion.
  - How do these factors relate to your ‘country?’
  - How do these factors relate to Canada today?
  - Which three of these factors are the most important?
  - Which three should be the most important?

# Factors Influencing Foreign Policy

## Country Descriptions

---



### **Country 701**

You are the leadership council within your country. Your country is a wonderful place. It is a polar land, frozen much of the year with large oil and natural gas reserves. The population is relatively homogeneous and ruled by traditional structures that go back hundreds of years.

### **Country 712**

You are the leadership council within your country. Your country is a wonderful place. It is small and rocky with hundreds of kilometers of beautiful coastline, which provides revenues from foreign tourism and a thriving fisheries industry. The government is a village council which elects a regional leader

### **Country 723**

You are the leadership council within your country. Your country is a wonderful place. It is landlocked and relatively flat and supports a strong agricultural export economy. The strong farming history has produced a populist tradition with a strong nationalist strain.

### **Country 734**

You are the leadership council within your country. Your country is a wonderful place. It is a small highly industrialized nation bordering a key river. The population is very diverse with high immigration rates. The political system is democratic, but one ethnic group tends to dominate the Council.

### **Country 745**

You are the leadership council within your country. Your country is a wonderful place. A mountainous coast of fjords attracts adventure and eco-tourists. The strong participatory democracy has a long tradition of left-wing policies.