



2020 Summer Global Leadership Seminar

Foreign Policy Themes - Final Project Guidelines

The culminating effort of the 2020 Summer Global Leadership Seminar is the 'Foreign Policy Theme' final project, a group-based research project focusing on one of six foreign policy themes.

1. **Disputes, Conflicts, and War**
2. **Migration, Refugees, and Displaced People**
3. **Diplomacy, Foreign Aid, and International Organizations**
4. **Advancing Democracy**
5. **Climate Change**
6. **Global Trade**

Students will be split up into teams of 3-4, and will spend portions of the weekly program researching and investigating their assigned topic. Students will be asked to become mini-experts on their assigned topic and make a 15 minute presentation on the final day of the program. Students will be asked to understand the **historical context** of their assigned topic, **instances where the United States has advanced the topic**, **instances where the United States has failed to lead in that topic**, and the **upcoming challenges and opportunities** associated with that assigned topic. In addition, students should briefly **describe the policy platform of each presidential candidate** in relation to their assigned topic.

In some cases, students will find objective truths associated with their topic; in other instances, students will need to consider a number of subjective opinions associated with their topic. In all cases, these themes are complicated, involve decades worth of policy and politics, and cover a number of presidential agendas. Students are tasked with sifting through these myriad sources, historical events, and policy documents, and **present their interpretation of their assigned theme**. At the conclusion of your 15 minute presentation, there will be a **5 minute Q&A session** where other students, WAC staff, and invited guests can ask questions pertaining to your topic.

Although this project mimics a presentation one might usually make at school, we won't be assigning grades, assessing performance, or passing or failing students. This is an opportunity to do a deep-dive into an interesting topic and learn about varying opinions, thoughts, and historical contexts related to that topic. The presentation at the conclusion of the program is meant to be an opportunity to show-off the information you have learned throughout the week and practice crucial public speaking and presentation skills.