

Meeting of the Minds: Midterm ***Containment, Management and Sustainable Peacebuilding***

The following Midterm assessment was introduced following five weeks of curriculum harvested from USIP's Peacebuilding Toolkit for Educators: High School Edition as well as what I assembled through my work with USIP this year.

Week One:

Lesson 1.1: Defining Conflict
Lesson 1.2: Perspectives on Peace
Lesson 2.1: Maintaining Trusting Relationships

Week Two:

Lesson on Inculcating Empathy as a Trust Building Tool
Lesson on Vulnerability as a Trust Building Tool
Lesson 2.2: Identifying Conflict

Week Three:

Lesson 2.3: Identifying Elements of Conflict
Lesson 2.4: Identifying Your Conflict Style
Lesson 2.5: Nonverbal Communication
Lesson 2.6: Active Listening

Week Four:

Lesson 2.7: The Process of Negotiation
Lesson 2.8: Negotiation Role Play
Lesson 2.9: Mediating Conflict
Lesson 2.10: Advanced Mediation Practice

Week Five:

Day 1:

Introduce assignment
Using a shared google doc with students, have students research and brainstorm a list of possible parties that could/should be at the negotiation table
Once the list is complete, students submit their top three choices on an exit slip as they leave
Homework: Students review the assignment details and craft three clarifying questions for next class period

Day 2:

Students work in groups to share their clarifying questions and answer all that they can using the assignment description
The questions that remain are addressed by the teacher
Teacher announces who has which party

Students begin the research process, answering the contextual and framing questions provided

The remaining work days, as outlined below, are peppered throughout the next two weeks. Assignment description provided in detail below:

Student Handout:

The midterm for this course requires that you select and research the background, historical involvement, positions and interests of a person or organization that is involved in, or associated with, the conflict with ISIS (Syria and Iraq).

Assignment:

You will work with others who both oppose and share your concerns and objectives regarding the management of the conflict with ISIS in both Syria and Iraq. Using the strategies we have examined in class regarding negotiation and conflict styles, you will develop and propose a solution that seeks to manage the conflict, and ideally build a sustainable peace in the region.

You are expected to be able to answer the following questions from the perspective of your negotiating party, as well as offer specific textual evidence from the documents you (or your organization) have produced. While you may not be able to answer each and every question, the expectation is that you infer what your party would most likely state or offer based on the analysis you have done.

IN CLASS WORK TIME:

Introduction to Assignment	Monday: January 11
Research/Work Time	Thursday: January 14
Research/Work Time	Tuesday: January 19
Meeting of the Minds: Status Update	Wednesday: January 20
Preparation Time	Tuesday: January 26
Meeting of the Minds	Wednesday: January 27

Contextual and Framing Questions:

1. What factors contributed to the current conflict with ISIS in Syria and Iraq?
2. What parties are involved in the current conflict? Which countries and organizations are aligned with each of the designated parties?
3. What are each of the parties' interests and positions?
4. What attempts have been made to manage the conflict with ISIS in Syria and Iraq to date?
5. Which if any of the attempts have been effective to some extent? Which have been ineffective?
6. What specific interest groups must be taken into consideration as the negotiations move forward? Which interest group/s, if any, does your organization support? Consider those who are not attending on Wednesday, January 27 as well.

7. What kind of economic impact is the ongoing conflict having on the countries that surround Syria and Iraq?
8. Come with at least some familiarity with the countries and organizations attending the MOTM.
9. What must happen in order to most effectively manage the conflict? OBJECTIVE #1
10. What must happen once the conflict is contained? OBJECTIVE #2
11. You must identify at least three people on the list above who influenced or informed your work and be prepared to state what specifically they did to help you define your work and purpose.
12. During our mid-session break, find at least one party that agrees with your analysis and objectives and sit next to the student/s representing that particular party/ies.
13. You must share at least FOUR direct quotations from your conflict management/peacebuilding work. Select at least two documents that were written or produced by you or your organization and pull direct quotations from them to share during the Meeting of the Minds. "As I indicated in *The construction of gender-sensitive peacebuilding in Australia: 'Advance Australia Fair'...*"
14. When you present your direct quotations you must give them context, in what settings were the statements made and why?
15. Use of at least 10 of the vocabulary words we have discussed and used over the course of the term as references when you are at the MOTM (see list in the to do doc).

On the first day of the MOTM, students will introduce themselves and make their recommendations to the representative body.

What To Bring on the Day of the Meeting of the Minds Midterm:

A one-three page summary of your peacebuilder or organization, which includes:

1. A brief biography (1-2 paragraphs) of you or description of your party (include your name, you need one)
2. A one page analysis of the conflict from your perspective (why is it happening? what must be done?)
3. A one page synopsis of what you (as the representative of a country or an organization) intend to do at negotiation, including your response to what's been done and why you're at the negotiating table (goals/objectives?)

How You Will Be Graded:

- 10 points: A properly formatted MLA Works Consulted Page, with a **minimum** of 7 sources
- 20 points: **1-3** above
- 10 points: use of relevant vocabulary words
- 10 points: A one-three page written evaluation (to be submitted the day after the midterm concludes) of the process that includes your responses to the following questions: 1. Which of your objectives were a part of the meeting's decisions? 2. What was most difficult to witness as the parties worked through the process? Why? 3. Which parties, if any, did not have their concerns taken into consideration? Why do you think that happened? What did working through this process make most clear for you about the

challenges associated with conflict management and sustainable peacebuilding? Use specific examples to support your answer.

- 50 points: I will be looking specifically for the following on the day of Midterm Meeting of the Minds:
 1. Ability to introduce and represent your character/organization, quotations and information presented clearly and specifically (10)
 2. Ability to stay in character and correct use of character's point of view (10)
 3. Use of relevant information (20)
 4. Contributing to the discussion in a positive manner and building off of others' ideas (5)
 5. Ability to allow others to speak and not dominate the conversation (5)
 6. On the first day of the MOTM, students will introduce themselves and make their recommendations to the representative body (January 27).
 7. On the second day of the MOTM, students will gather into alliances and work on producing a document that represents their interests (see ISIS/L No More as a sample). There are usually no more than two alliances.
 8. Alliances then have the opportunity to dialogue and discuss conflict resolution and peace building options.

Total Points Possible: /100

Meeting of the Minds Objectives

#1: Stop the conflict

How? By what means?

Where first?

#2: Address the shady aftermath

What must be addressed first? Why?

Examples of Parties to the Conflict:

US:

Turkey:

Iraq:

Syria:

Syrian Rebel Forces:

Jordan:

Russia:

Lebanon:

Kurds:

Saudi Arabia:

Ban Ki Moon/UN:

Iran:

EU: