

Detailed Blog Post Instructions

*** Students should understand that they will earn no points for merely expressing opinions: the aim here is to make informed and defensible arguments. ***

(1) Each blog entry must be *at least* 300 words, and *no more than* 500 words.

(2) These responses should be treated as brief position papers: students must take a side on the issue, and must clearly articulate *and justify* an argument.

- **Think of your task here as convincing your fellow classmates that *your perspective on the issue is the correct one.***

(3) This will require students to support their arguments with sufficient evidence.

- In other words, **you need to support your position by citing *at least two reputable news articles or academic journal articles.***
- Reputable news sources would include Reuters, Foreign Policy, The Economist, BBC News, Associated Press, New York Times, Washington Post, and etc.
- Academic journals would include *Foreign Affairs, International Organization, International Security, International Studies Quarterly, World Politics*, and etc.
- These **two** sources **cannot** include what is assigned to read for class, but **students are encouraged to also draw on course materials in making their arguments.**
- **Provide proper in-text citations within your blog post—*with* page numbers whenever possible.**

A note on citing your sources:

- In-text, parenthetic citations should include the last name(s) of the author or authors, the year of the publication, and the specific page number from which a quote or paraphrase is drawn.
- For instance: (Smith 2012: 15).
- ***All direct quotes and paraphrases must be appropriately cited.*** The general rule of thumb is that if you're borrowing any idea from an author—even if you put it into your own words—a citation is necessary.
- For questions about citing sources, visit [Michener Library's help page](#).

(4) Three of the six total blog posts must be direct responses to my question prompts. The other three posts must be responses to one of your fellow classmates' posts.

A note on secondary responses:

- Remember that each week half of the class will *not* be responding directly to my question prompt, but rather to the responses that their classmates write.
- When responding to one of your fellow classmate's blog posts, you must still satisfy all of the above (1-3) requirements.
- However, with secondary responses, **students must critique the argument made by the classmate they choose to respond to**—justifying why and how they agree or disagree with their classmate's argument.