

Detailed Blog Post and Blog Post Critique 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—by providing reasons and evidence to support the truth of your central claim.
- (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 (peer-reviewed) journal articles.**
 - Reputable news sources include, but are not limited to, Reuters, Foreign Policy, The Economist, BBC News, Associated Press, New York Times, and Washington Post.
 - Peer-reviewed academic journals include, but are not limited to, *Foreign Affairs*, *International Organization*, *International Security*, *International Studies Quarterly*, and *World Politics*.
 - 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 in your blog post—with specific page numbers when available.

A note on citing your sources:

- In-text, parenthetical citations should include the last name(s) of the author(s) and the specific page number(s) from which a quote, paraphrase, or summary is drawn.
- For instance: (Smith, 15) or (Smith 2012: 15) or (Smith and Jones 2014: 67-8).
- **All quotes, paraphrases, and summaries must be appropriately cited.** As a general rule of thumb, 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 [Norlin Library's help page](#), [Purdue University's Online Writing Lab](#), or speak with me. It is your responsibility to know the rules of proper citation and what constitutes plagiarism.

- (4) Two of the four total blog posts must be responses to my specific question prompts. The other two posts must be critiques of your fellow classmates' posts.