

AP[®] SEMINAR

2016 SCORING GUIDELINES

AP SEMINAR PERFORMANCE TASK RUBRIC: TEAM PROJECT AND PRESENTATION COMPONENT 2 OF 3: WRITTEN TEAM REPORT

CONTENT AREA	PERFORMANCE LEVELS		
1 Understanding and Analyzing Context	The report poses a problem, question, or issue simplistically, places the problem in a limited context, and provides no rationale, or a weak rationale, for the inquiry process. 2	The report poses a problem, question, or issue with reasonable complexity, places it in a clear context, and provides a rationale for the inquiry process. 4	The report poses a well-defined problem, question, or issue with a high degree of complexity, places it in a clear and relevant context, and provides a compelling rationale for the inquiry process. 6
2 Understanding and Analyzing Perspective	The report identifies weak or irrelevant perspectives and refers to arguments without evaluating their validity. 2	The report identifies relevant perspectives, provides limited evaluation of the validity of arguments and reflects a limited understanding of how the reasoning is logically aligned with the conclusions of those arguments. 4	The report identifies and clarifies relevant perspectives, critically evaluates the validity of arguments, and conveys a clear understanding of how the reasoning is logically aligned with the conclusions of those arguments. 6
3 Selecting and Using Evidence	The report cites insufficient evidence to build its argument. 2	The report cites relevant evidence to build its argument. 4	The report effectively synthesizes evidence from multiple perspectives to build its argument. 6
4 Building and Communicating an Argument	The report offers opinions or unclear resolutions, solutions, or conclusions not supported by evidence. 2	The report draws weak connections between the evidence and one or more resolutions, conclusions, and/or solutions. 4	The report offers one or more well-reasoned resolutions, solutions, or conclusions that acknowledge consequences or implications. 6
5 Selecting and Using Evidence	The response includes many errors in attribution and citation. The bibliography, if included, is inconsistent in style and format and/or incomplete in citation elements. 1	The response attributes and cites sources used with a reasonable amount of accuracy and thoroughness. The bibliography includes nearly all referenced sources, most of which are consistent and complete in citation elements. 2	The response appears to accurately attribute and cite the sources used. The bibliography includes referenced sources, and is consistent and complete in citation elements. 3
6 Grammar and Style	The report contains many flaws in grammar and style that interfere with communication to the reader. 1	The report contains some flaws in grammar and style that minimally interfere with communication to the reader. 2	The report contains few flaws in grammar and style and clearly communicates to the reader. 3

ADDITIONAL SCORES: In addition to the scores represented on the rubrics, readers can also assign scores of **0** (zero) and **NR** (No Response).

0 (Zero)

A score of **0** is assigned to a single row of the rubric when the response displays a below-minimum level of quality as identified in that row of the rubric.

Scores of **0** are assigned to all rows of the rubric when the response is off-topic; a repetition of a prompt; entirely crossed-out; a drawing or other markings; or a response in a language other than English.

NR (No Response)

A score of **NR** is assigned to responses that are blank.

AP Capstone PT 1

03/02/16

Should Ukraine Prioritize Nuclear Energy?

Ukraine is a nation with complicated political, economic and environmental backgrounds. It has been independent since it seceded from the Soviet Union, in December 1991. Because the USSR was one country, its three hundred million citizens relied on a single unanimous system. Now, with the union broken up into fifteen countries, each one is competition to the others. The average Ukrainian is 20% poorer than in the Soviet era and the economy, as measured by GDP, has shrunk by 30% since 1991.¹ The 2016 Index of Economic Freedom gives Ukraine a global ranking of 162nd, the worst in Europe.² These shortcomings are heavily linked to the Ukrainian energy sector. The International Energy Agency's 2012 two hundred and twenty four page report on Ukraine's energy sector indicates that the country's primary energy mix is 40% gas, 31% coal and about 18 % nuclear.³ Ukraine needs to make a decision on which energy sector should be prioritized moving forward. Economically, a huge dependence on energy lessens the country's economic independence and the attractiveness of its market to potential investors. While expensive to rejuvenate short term, nuclear energy is almost entirely domestic and offers a lot of future potential. Nuclear energy is also beneficial long-term environmentally speaking. Ukraine is suffering from high levels of air pollution from both coal production and industrialization and degradation of the land. Focusing on nuclear power in Ukraine is challenging because of the Chernobyl accident, but also constructive because there are higher safety standards and regulations put in place. Politically, the answer lies in relationship preference. Russia and Ukraine are in the midst of a military conflict, hence damaging their commercial relationship regarding energy. The European Union is not willing to get directly involved, but urges Ukraine to become more independent of Russia by strengthening their domestic nuclear sector. This would significantly aid Ukraine's 2020 EU application. As strengthening their political relationship with the European Union is more important to Ukraine than theirs with Russian, they should prioritize nuclear energy.

When assessing the benefits or detriments of prioritizing nuclear energy, a clear understanding of the impact of the Ukrainian natural gas sector is necessary. Russian company Gazprom is the largest gas producer for Europe and uses Ukraine as a key transit country to export the gas west. The Clingendael International Energy Programme's (CIEP) mission statement is an independent forum seeking to "gather and develop information and knowledge about international political and economic developments in the

¹ C. W., "Ukraine's Economy It is really that bad," *The Economist*, last modified November 20, 2014, accessed February 4, 2016, <http://www.economist.com/blogs/freeexchange/2014/11/ukraines-economy>.

² "Ukraine," 2016 Index of Economic Freedom, accessed February 4, 2016, <http://www.heritage.org/index/country/ukraine>.

³ *Energy Policies beyond IEA Countries: Ukraine 2012* (Paris: OECD/IEA, 2012), 22, access February 3, 2016, https://www.iea.org/publications/freepublications/publication/Ukraine_2012_free.pdf.

energy sector on the basis of research". According to their 2014 factsheet, Europe consumed about 541 billion cubic meters (bcm) of gas in 2013.⁴ Gazprom provided 161 bcm of that gas and the national Ukrainian gas company Naftogaz exported a staggering 50 percent of that total through Ukraine.⁵ This resulted in about 15 percent of the total European gas demand being processed by Naftogaz, further reinforcing the importance of Ukraine as a player in international energy relationships. Ukraine is not only a transit country for Russian and European energy but also a large recipient of Gazprom's natural gas. According to Paul Kirby, a BBC reporter of 22 years, Ukraine needs about 50-60 bcm of gas a year but can only produce 20 bcm, thus importing the rest.⁶ Although the country has made efforts to diversify imports, in 2012 Gazprom had still reported the sale of 32 bcm of gas to Ukraine.⁷

Gazprom's official records report that inconsistent prices and a history of unsustainable and overly dependent natural gas policies have heavily contributed to the disarray of the Ukrainian economy. Ukraine's Naftogaz and Russia's Gazprom signed an agreement in January 2009 creating an exact supply and transit contract of natural gas for 10 years.⁸ Company records show that in 2013 Russia agreed to prepay its transit fees until January 2015 in the total amount of \$5.5 billion and amended the agreement in January of 2014 by lowering the cost of gas to \$268 per thousand cubic meters to ease the financial pressure on Ukraine.⁹ However Ukraine failed to pay their monthly gas fees and continued to rack up debt, thus inciting Gazprom to halt their discount and raise gas prices by 40%.¹⁰ The BBC Business reported in May 2014 that Ukraine's debt to Gazprom had reached \$1.9 billion but the International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreed to a \$17.1 billion bailout for Ukraine to help the failing economy.¹¹ Nevertheless, one of the bailout conditions is a unilateral 50% increase in gas prices.¹² In the press release following the Ukrainian bailout, the IMF, an organization constituted of 188 countries to promote international financial stability, confirmed that "The authorities are firmly committed to deep and decisive measures to reform the critical energy sector" and would "implement frontloaded gas and heating price adjustments".¹³

⁴ *Russian Gas Imports to Europe and Security of Supply- Factsheet* (n.p.: Clingendael International Energy Programme, n.d.), 1, accessed February 3, 2016, <http://www.clingendaelenergy.com/files.cfm?event=files.download&ui=9C1DEEC1>

⁵ *Russian Gas Imports to Europe*, 1.

⁶ Paul Kirby, "Russia's gas fight with Ukraine," BBC News, accessed October 31, 2014, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-29521564>

⁷ "Factsheet on Ukraine-Gazprom Gas Relations," GAZPROM UKRAINE FACTS, last modified March 7, 2014, accessed February 4, 2016, <http://www.gazpromukrainefacts.com/ukraine-natural-gas-facts/factsheet-ukraine-gazprom-gas-relations>.

⁸ "Factsheet on Ukraine-Gazprom Gas Relations," GAZPROM UKRAINE FACTS.

⁹ "Factsheet on Ukraine-Gazprom Gas Relations," GAZPROM UKRAINE FACTS.

¹⁰ "Factsheet on Ukraine-Gazprom Gas Relations," GAZPROM UKRAINE FACTS.

¹¹ "Ukraine economy: How bad is the mess and can it be fixed?," BBC News, last modified May 1, 2014, accessed February 4, 2016, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-26767864>.

¹² "Ukraine economy: How bad is the mess," BBC News.

¹³ International Monetary Fund, "Press Release No. 15/51," news release, 1, February 12, 2015, accessed February 4, 2016, <https://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2015/pr1551.htm>.

The disputes and contract breaches of both the Ukrainian Naftogaz and the Russian Gazprom have affected Ukraine-European commerce, as pointed out by Carlo Gallo, PhD at the London School of Economics: "If no deal is reached, Russia would still be likely to extend more loans to Ukraine to pay its gas debts. This would make Ukraine even more financially dependent on Russia, [...] undermining fair competition from other foreign investors."¹⁴ On the domestic side, the gas price increases due to the financial crises and large debt burdens are a difficult reality for the general population, as expressed by local Kiev restaurateur Yuri Gelfat: "The price of gas will impact all of us".¹⁵

In conclusion, Ukraine needs to heavily lessen its reliance on gas. Russia's complete dominance over the sector is dangerous; unchallenged by other countries or companies; they have complete control over gas distribution and prices. Ukraine cannot allow itself to be manipulated economically. Not only will the price instability hurt the common Ukrainian but the frequent gas cuts due to disputes makes Ukraine an untrustworthy trade partner for other developed countries, thus hurting their economic and political credit and reputation. Ukraine's nuclear sector needs to start providing more energy for a diminished reliance on gas to be feasible.

The other prominent energy sector in Ukraine is coal. Assessing coal in comparison to nuclear is most valuable from an environmental perspective. In terms of air pollution, coal-using industries, such as metallurgical coke-chemical plants, steel mills, and thermal power plants are major sources of high levels and uncontrolled emissions of sulfur dioxide, unburned hydrocarbons, and other harmful substances. Oleg Savitsky, a climate and energy campaigner at the National Ecological Centre of Ukraine believes that Kiev, Ukraine, regardless of the outcome of the military conflict, should not continue the same coal mining operations. He uses varying factors to come to this conclusion, including coal mine technology being outdated, increased dependency on other countries and the many environmental costs of mines and plants. He claims that Ukraine is among the top twenty carbon dioxide emitters in the world and as of 2013, the coal sector accounted for half of Ukraine's greenhouse gas emissions.¹⁶ The severe health effects of gases like mercury, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and particulate matter include neurological, development and respiratory problems.

On top of greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution, coal production also destroys the landscape and decreases the water quality. According to a report that assessed the risks of the Donetsk Basin in Ukraine, done by the Environment & Security (ENVSEC) Initiative work with the Ukrainian Coal Mining

¹⁴ Carlo Gallo, *Strain in the EU-Ukraine-Russia Energy Triangle* (n.p.: Global Policy, 2012), 3, accessed February 5, 2016, <http://www.globalpolicyjournal.com/sites/default/files/pdf/Gallo%20-%20Strain%20in%20the%20EU-Ukraine-Russia%20Energy%20Triangle.pdf>.

¹⁵ Al Pessin, "Energy Prices are Big Part of Ukraine Crisis," *Voices of America*, last modified May 22, 2014, accessed February 4, 2016, <http://www.voanews.com/content/energy-prices-are-big-part-of-ukraine-crisis/1920566.html>.

¹⁶ Oleg Savitsky, "Why Ukraine should phase out coal," *Energy Post*, last modified November 15, 2015, <http://www.energypost.eu/ukraine-phase-coal-business/>.

Sector, Donetsk is one of the most environmentally damaged areas in Ukraine because of the hundreds of coal mine sites.¹⁷ According to a NATO Project Workshop Conference about Ukraine, entitled “Energy and Environmental Challenges to Security in Eastern Europe,” when mines flood, it waterlogs areas and pollutes the groundwater.¹⁸ Also, ventilation and water pump systems continuously fail in coal mines.¹⁹ This results in accumulation of harmful gases being released.²⁰ There are also water quality concerns as the mines pump out approximately 600 million cubic meters of unpurified water per year. Therefore, one million tons of mineral salt, that negatively affect native plants and animals, are discharged into rivers.²¹ With implementation of the Energy Strategy, this would only increase the serious environmental impacts on agriculture and animals.²²

Coal fly ash is more radioactive than a nuclear power plant generating the same amount of energy. Hundreds of tons of uranium and thorium are contained in the ash released into the environment by coal-fired plants. Unlike nuclear power plants, coal plants are not required to retain their radioactive wastes. Gwyneth Cravens, author of *Power to Save the World: The Truth About Nuclear Energy*, debates both sides of nuclear energy. Using expert analysis in radiation effects, nuclear medicine, reactor accidents and risk analysis, she concludes that nuclear power has been successfully, safely and economically produced all around the world, displacing carbon dioxide, a huge cause for global warming and acidifying oceans. She also discusses the overall risks and benefits compared to other energy sources. She claims that coal plants release radioactive by-products into the environment and exposes people to anywhere from one hundred to four hundred times more radiation than nuclear plants do.²³ Coal-fired plants are much more hazardous to people’s health than nuclear plants as they discharge much more radioactive elements into the environment. This point is further defended by Dana Christensen, the Deputy Lab Director of Science and Technology at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), and who has 29 years of management experience in materials science, fossil and renewable energy, and scientific research. He explained that fly ash, gives off more radiation in the environment than a nuclear power plant producing the same amount of energy.²⁴ His claim was used in an argument done by Mara Hvistendahl, from the

¹⁷ *Risk Assessment Considerations in the Donetsk Basin*, January 2009, http://www.envsec.org/publications/Risk%20Assessment%20Considerations%20in%20the%20Donetsk%20Basin%20Report_ENG.pdf.

¹⁸ Milstein and Cherp, "THE CASE STUDY OF UKRAINE," in *Energy and Environmental Challenges*, 237-249.

¹⁹ Milstein and Cherp, "THE CASE STUDY OF UKRAINE," in *Energy and Environmental Challenges*, 237-249.

²⁰ Milstein and Cherp, "THE CASE STUDY OF UKRAINE," in *Energy and Environmental Challenges*, 237-249.

²¹ Milstein and Cherp, "THE CASE STUDY OF UKRAINE," in *Energy and Environmental Challenges*, 237-249.

²² Milstein and Cherp, "THE CASE STUDY OF UKRAINE," in *Energy and Environmental Challenges*, 237-249.

²³ Gwyneth Cravens, *Power to save the World: The Truth about Nuclear Energy* (New York: Vintage Books, 2008), 32.

²⁴ Mara Hvistendahl, "Coal Ash Is More Radioactive than Nuclear Waste," *Scientific America*, last modified December 13, 2007, <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/coal-ash-is-more-radioactive-than-nuclear-waste/>.

Scientific American, adding to her defense of comparing the accumulating negative impacts on air pollution of burning coal to the small risk but huge consequences of a nuclear accident.

Coal production is also immensely dangerous to coal miners. Since 1991, 300 coal miners have died at work every year. Donbas, found in Eastern Ukraine, is one of the most perilous areas with coal mines in the world because of its huge working depths as a result of natural depletion, high levels of methane explosion and coal dust explosion.²⁵ For example, as reported by the BBC, in March 2015, a methane explosion killed 33 of the 200 miners, among many others before that.²⁶

Environmentally, coal production is increasing air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions and destroys the land and water. This intensifies people's susceptibility to respiratory and neurological problems. Coal ash waste is also very radioactive and coal mines' working conditions are also extremely threatening to humans. Therefore, Ukraine should reconsider increasing coal production and instead focus on expanding nuclear energy production.

Overall, gas energy and coal energy are inadequate solutions for Ukraine's future. Instead, the country should attempt to lessen the importance of those two sectors by focusing on nuclear energy. Nuclear energy's definite advantages and possible drawbacks can be assessed from economic, environmental and political lenses.

Economically, increasing the importance of the nuclear sector, while demanding short term, is a viable and responsible long-term step. Tatiana Kasperski, a postdoctoral fellow at the Centre Alexandre-Koyr, published a report on the nuclear sector in Ukraine and its role in Ukrainian energy independence in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. Her project was funded by the Institute for Research and Innovation in Society and provides an interesting overview of the importance of Ukrainian nuclear power. In 2014, she states, nuclear energy produced 13.8 gigawatts-electric from 15 different reactors, which is 50% of the total domestic electrical energy market.²⁷ The U.S Energy Information Administration's statistics ranks Ukraine nuclear electricity net generation as 8th in the world, further emphasizing its importance.²⁸ The sector also employs about 40,000 people, which is a critical job stimulus to this disheveled economy.²⁹ However the fuel and uranium necessary to run the plants comes at an enormous economic price tag. The World Nuclear Association, the largest independent nuclear information association, reports that Ukraine has "modest recoverable resources of uranium" and can provide 40% of the country's

²⁵ "Health effects of the Chernobyl Accident: an overview," World Health Organization, last modified April 2006, http://www.who.int/ionizing_radiation/chernobyl/backgrounder/en/.

²⁶ "Coal in Ukraine," Wikipedia, last modified September 2013, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coal_in_Ukraine.

²⁷ "Ukraine 2012," International Energy Agency.

²⁸ Savitsky, "Why Ukraine should phase," *Energy Post*.

²⁹ *Risk Assessment Considerations in the Donetsk Basin*, January 2009, http://www.envsec.org/publications/Risk%20Assessment%20Considerations%20in%20the%20Donetsk%20Basin%20Report_ENG.pdf.

needs.³⁰ A \$700 million investment would be needed to further develop the mines.³¹ The World Nuclear Association also recognizes that Ukraine is also reliant on foreign companies for fabricated fuel for nuclear energy. Ukraine paid Russian company TVEL \$608 million in 2014 and the American company Westinghouse \$60 million for fuel.³² The report finishes by stating that a \$460 million investment would be needed to build a domestic fueling process plant.³³ Finally, the cost of safety and renovation to existing operations adds considerably to the financial burden of nuclear energy. According to the EurActiv Foundation, a politically unaligned public service foundation, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development has agreed to a \$300 million loan to make 87 renovations to the outdated Ukrainian nuclear facilities in order to comply with the international safety standards.³⁴ These costs, however, will result in the price of electricity doubling from 2012 to 2020, in order to repay the loan.³⁵ The Ukrainian think tank NICC summarizes these issues in a 2014 report: “The current rates for electricity generated by nuclear power plants do not cover all operating costs and expenses related to their construction or continued operation”.³⁶

Nuclear energy should be expanded because it is not environmentally straining. The Chernobyl accident has been detrimental to both the environment and people’s health. The World Health Organization reports that when high levels of radioactive iodine were released, 5000 cases of thyroid cancer for people younger than 18, it caused between Russia, Belarus and Ukraine.³⁷ But in terms of the general population, according to a study done by the United Nations Scientific Committee, the radiation doses were relatively low and should not have led to substantial health effects that could be attributed to radiation exposure from the accident. The average radiation dose in “contaminated areas” was about equivalent to that from a CT scan.³⁸ The immediate governmental responses to the accident included measures that would decontaminate settlements, remove large amounts food from human consumption, treat pasture, and provide clean feed to farm animals, and restrict drinking water.³⁹ However, as a result of the Chernobyl disaster, there are now higher safety standards that ensure safer technical designs. According to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, in 2010, the Chernobyl New Safe

³⁰ Milstein and Cherp, "THE CASE STUDY OF UKRAINE," in *Energy and Environmental Challenges*.

³¹ Hvistendahl, "Coal Ash Is More," *Scientific America*.

³² "Nuclear Power in Ukraine," World Nuclear Organization, last modified December 2015, accessed January 30, 2016, <http://www.world-nuclear.org/info/Country-Profiles/Countries-T-Z/Ukraine/>.

³³ The Law of Ukraine on Radioactive Waste Management, State Nuclear Inspectorate of Ukraine, last modified March 30, 2010, <http://www.snrc.gov.ua>

³⁴ "Chernobyl's New Safe Confinement," European Bank for Reconstruction Development, <http://www.ebrd.com/what-we-do/sectors/nuclear-safety/chernobyl-new-safe-confinement.html>.

³⁵ *Sources and Effects of Ionizing Radiation* (New York, NY: The United Nations, 2008).

³⁶ *Sources and Effects of Ionizing*.

³⁷ *Sources and Effects of Ionizing*.

³⁸ *Sources and Effects of Ionizing*.

³⁹ "Chernobyl's New Safe Confinement," European Bank for Reconstruction Development.

Confinement construction began, which is designed to prevent radioactive materials from leaking into the environment from the reactor complex.⁴⁰ The Ukrainian State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate (SNRI) set very high safety standards and regulations that attempt to comply with other international nuclear organizations. Also, the Chernobyl accident instigated the changes to reactor designs and emergency response measures worldwide. However, now all fifteen reactors have been improved in design. While, the Chernobyl accident affected Ukraine detrimentally, and still is, there has been no other accident of its magnitude.

Politically, Ukraine is currently struggling with independence and autonomy. The explosion of the Chernobyl reactor left a large mess for the USSR to clean up. Because of the geographical location of the town, Ukraine became the owner of the disaster. Today, the European Union automatically characterizes all Soviet-built nuclear power plants as “dangerous.”⁴¹ Some of the ex-Soviet plants are found around Europe, and for safety concerns, the EU is trying to get rid of them all. Keith C. Smith, a senior associate with the Russia and Eurasia program at CSIS, pointed out in his published nonfiction book that, “the perception persists in Western Europe that the design and operation of all Soviet-built nuclear power plants automatically pose a danger of widespread nuclear contamination.”⁴² Ukraine currently houses four plants and is working on replacing their two Soviet-built ones as a part of their November 2015 agreement for safety upgrades and application to the European Union. Therefore, by pursuing nuclear independence, Ukraine must be willing to accept complete responsibility for their technologies.

Ukraine is committed to advancing their European Union application. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has strongly focused on European relations even with opposition from Russia. By becoming a member of the EU, Ukraine looks to gain political recognition and support, economic aid, raised environmental standards, and free movement of labor for its people. To further Ukraine’s 2020 bid, they must actively pursue nuclear technology and energy. This entails updating the safety standards of their current nuclear power plants. Nuclear technology in the EU nations is less common, but it has allowed for longer life spans and a higher efficiency than the ex-Soviet ones of Ukraine. The European Union is searching for a sustainable way to lessen their reliance on Russia for gas and Ukrainian nuclear energy is an attainable solution.

Gas is a catalyst for an enormous economical and political reliance on Russia. Russia’s ability to jack up prices and the lack of energy security due to constant disputes make gas an unattractive solution to Ukraine’s energy dilemma. Hence nuclear energy must become the dominant method of energy

⁴⁰ The Law of Ukraine on Radioactive Waste Management, State Nuclear Inspectorate of Ukraine.

⁴¹ Keith C. Smith, *Russian Energy Politics in the Baltics, Poland, and Ukraine* (Washington, DC: CSIS, 2014), 60.

⁴² Smith, *Russian Energy Politics in the Baltics*, 62.

production and consumption for Ukraine. This claim is substantiated by environmental, economical and political arguments. Nuclear energy does not release greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and methane that are responsible for the greenhouse effect. Therefore, while the effects of the Chernobyl accident were harmful, the safety responses to the accident both in Ukraine and worldwide have enabled nuclear energy production to continue harmlessly. Economically, while Nuclear energy renovation and growth is expensive, the sector is almost entirely domestic, thus creating local capital and growth. A long-term investment in nuclear is the most viable economic solution to the country's energy crisis. Finally, Nuclear energy provides another reason for the EU to grant Ukraine membership, which would help the nation stabilize itself politically and economically. Furthermore, Ukraine would rely significantly less on Russia, thus diminishing future conflict. Prioritizing nuclear energy is the best solution.

Word Count: 2934

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Terrorism Policies

Are the current counterterrorism polices employed in the United States, Middle East, Africa, and Europe effective enough to deal with the threat posed by terrorism?

Word Count: 2,889

Terrorism is “the premeditated use or threat of use of violence by individuals or subnational groups to obtain a political or social objective through the intimidation of a large audience, beyond that of the immediate victim.” (Todd Sandler Professor of International Relations and Economics at the University of Southern California). Fear, especially of terrorist attacks can drive people to do crazy things and generally leads to economic, political, ethical, and social chaos. In order to bring terrorism to a halt, countries around the world are all implementing different counterterrorism methods. However, the current counterterrorism methods employed in the USA, Middle East, Africa, and Europe are not effective enough to deal with the threat posed by terrorism.

The Middle East is an area of the world that has differing opinions on how terrorism should be defeated. The opposing opinions among the numerous Middle Eastern countries contributes to fact that terrorism is still an unresolved issue. The counterterrorism methods that are being employed in these countries are ineffective due to ongoing tensions between the Middle Eastern countries and the rivalry between the Shiite and Sunni Muslims. The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), is one of the most well-known Middle Eastern terrorist organizations. This terrorist group wants to establish an Islamic state in the Middle East. One of the main issues relating to ISIS is that the government in Iran is Shiite Muslim, the Saudi government is Sunni Muslim, and Iraq is a country with Shiites currently in power but with a strong Sunni population. Since each of these groups believe that they are superior to one another, this is causing a delay in the struggle against terrorism. Meanwhile, there are many terrorist attacks originating in Yemen, where Al-Qaeda has a strong presence. Yemen got heavily involved once Iranian-backed rebels attacked the capital, Sana’a (Botelho, 2015). Saudi Arabia and its allies are not willing to attack these militant terrorist groups because they are afraid to

give more power to the Iranians who happen to be allied with the Iraqis and Syrians. Israel is also reluctant to fight against ISIS. They are not concerned because “they do not see the group as a direct threat and because it is wary of involving itself in a battle that aligns with the objectives of the Syrian regime, a longtime political rival” (Banco, 2014). The country of Turkey could also be doing a lot more to suppress ISIS. The Turkish have come under fire for failing to stop Islamic radicals from crossing its territory into Syria to receive training from the terrorist groups on how to carry out acts of violence. According to the New York Times, “Turkey has been more focused on blunting Kurdish militant groups than on defeating the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.” The president of Turkey said that making peace with the Kurdish militant groups will not be possible but at the same time agrees to cooperate with the Americans and other Western countries in the fight against ISIS. Turkey’s priorities are evidently skewed towards fighting the Kurdish groups, instead of focusing on ISIS, which should be their main concern. Saudi Arabia is one of the largest and most important countries in the Middle East, not to mention one of the richest, primarily due to its huge supply of oil. According to the Council on Foreign Relations, which is made up of professors from a wide range of universities such as Georgetown University, says that “it also assembled a coalition of ten Sunni-majority countries, backed by the United States, to reverse the growing influence of Shiite Houthis in Yemen”. Even though it appears that Saudi Arabia is playing a large role in the fight against terrorism, a lot of the funding for terrorist groups comes from Saudi Arabia. Also, many al Qaeda attacks are launched from that country. Currently, Saudi Arabia is undergoing a political transition, with a new leader now in power. There is much apprehension that the fighting in Yemen, one of its neighboring countries, could cross over the border into Saudi Arabia (Bothello, 2014). As mentioned before, the Saudis’ extreme hatred of Iran is a cause for concern, as it raises the fear that one country

might decide to attack the other. In order to overcome terrorism in the Middle East there needs to be more of a focus on diplomacy rather than launching expensive wars. The tension and violence is what allows terrorists groups to grow and thrive in size and influence. If the Western countries continue to provide support and Middle Eastern countries work towards finding peace with one another, terrorism in the Middle East could become extinct for good.

Terrorism has had a constant presence in Africa for centuries. Most scholars agree that the earliest recorded acts of terrorism date back to the 11th century when the Egyptian Hashshashin (assassin) committed acts of terrorism in the Abbasid Empire by sending “suicide murderers” to eliminate specific targets (thesacredsociety.org, n.d.). Ever since then, terrorism in Africa has only improved its techniques, increased its number of adherents, and successfully resisted continuous attempts to remove it from existence (The Editors, 2016). Overall, counterterrorism techniques in Africa have been proven to be insufficient because of the continued growth and survival of terrorism in the continent.

For instance, in 2006 in Somalia, a terrorist organization affiliated with Al Qaeda that calls itself Al-Shabaab (translating to “the youth” from Arabic) controlled the region Mogadishu, which promptly fell into anarchy (British Broadcasting Network, 2015). In response, the Somali government called on Ethiopian forces to drive out the terrorists (B.B.C, 2015). The Somali government was (and arguably is to this day) so weak and disorganized that it must resort to foreign reinforcements in order to deal with any organized terrorist threat. Even after Ethiopian forces succeeded in driving Al-Shabaab from many major Somali cities, Al-Shabaab still poses a major threat to the region. Al-Shabaab is based in Somalia but has launched numerous attacks in Djibouti and Kenya as well, where it targeted and killed one hundred forty seven mostly Christian and a few non-Muslim students at a university in 2015, sixty eight non-Muslim people

at a mall, and countless others in various raids and grenade attacks (B.B.C, 2015). Al-Shabaab “is believed to have between 7000 and 8000 fighters” (BBC, 2015) whereas the Somali government has about 12,000 active members (Global Fire Power, 2015). This statistic of 12,000 does not even include the 24,000 reserve troops and the (difficult to quantify) number of troops from various coalitions assisting in combating Al-Shabaab. This massive imbalance of numbers of troops yet even balance of combat reflects the incompetence of Eastern African countries’ counterterrorism techniques.

Elsewhere, in the region commonly referred to as Sub-Saharan Africa, Boko Haram is a radical Muslim organization that funds itself by kidnaping and uses those funds to enact various acts of terrorism such as raids and fear mongering propaganda videos. However, the response to Boko Haram’s methods of terrorism from African countries in that region has been (for the most part) more successful and effective than the response to Al-Shabaab from East African countries. A coalition comprised of 54 African nations recently agreed to send 7500 troops to the region specifically to combat Boko Haram. Another coalition in 2013 comprised of “Nigeria and its four neighbouring nations on Saturday pledged to deploy 8,700 troops, police and civilians as part of a regional effort to fight Boko Haram militants” (Agency of Funds and Programmes, 2015).

There is some evidence that indicates that although counterterrorism techniques have been and still are lacking the strength and decisiveness necessary to deal with terrorism, they are improving. Perhaps the best example of this comes from Nigeria, one of the leading countries in the fight against Boko Haram (Africa Cradle, 2015). In a recent election, a president that had been frequently berated for incompetent counterterrorism techniques, Goodluck Jonathan, has been replaced by Muhammadu Buhari, a former military general who has promised to direct

much of his attention towards combating terrorism (Ejiofor, 2015). Not only is it under new, potentially more potent leadership, but it has also been a part of a recent strike on Boko Haram that killed at least 30 militants and “freed 192 children, 138 women and eight men” who were most likely going to be forced into either combat or sex slavery (Fantz, 2015).

However, despite all of these measures Boko Haram is still an imminent threat in the region and its kidnapping ring is thriving and remains fiscally (and objectively) profitable for the terrorist organization to this day. The most well-known act of terrorism that Boko Haram has enacted was the 2014 kidnapping of 276 school girls. It is assumed that these 16-18 year old girls “may have been raped, brutalized, enslaved and forced to convert to Islam.” This triggered outrage across the nation and world, and inspired the creation of an international coalition and a twitter feed: “#BringBackOurGirls” (Melvin, 2015). However, because of insufficient counterterrorism techniques prior to this monstrous event, Boko Haram was well connected and strong enough to survive the international attempted rescue and retribution. Therefore, even in the Sub Saharan region of Africa, the techniques employed for counterterrorism are insufficient to deal with the threat terrorism poses

The United States Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) defines terrorism as the “unlawful use of force and violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives” (fbi.gov) Terrorist attacks not only have a devastating effect on the land in which they occur, but also in the mind or the psyche of the people that survive. Anywhere between nine and thirty five percent of people experience “significant posttraumatic psychological distress and perhaps posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD)” after an attack. (The Psychological Impact of Terrorist Attacks by Judith J. Mathewson) Any attack can provoke fear, anger, or worry in its victims;

these sometimes brutal emotions can cause people to go into a downward spiral headed towards depression and a general loss of cognitive and motor functions. According to a U.S. news survey forty nine percent of Americans are very or somewhat worried about becoming the victim of a terrorist attack. These fears directly correspond to hate crimes or belittling opinions of Muslims in general. According to crime statistics gathered by the F.B.I. after the September eleventh attacks, hate crimes against Arabs and Muslims in the U.S. increased by 1,700%. Organizations like Human rights watch identify the flaws in the government's response to hate crimes. Aspects of the U.S. government's anti-terrorism efforts such as the “detention of twelve hundred mostly middle eastern and south asians because of possible links to terrorism” (hrw.org) have been highly criticized for leading to the expansion of hate crimes across the country. The “War on terrorism” is more of an ideology of fear and represents hate and repression that leads to the promotion of violence and the creation of enemies. Rather than using war to solve a problem that starts with violence, the government should cooperate internationally and address the problem while respecting civil liberties, human rights, international law, and basic morals.

Like the USA, Middle East, and Africa, Europe has experienced numerous terrorist attacks within the last two decades. Between 2009 and 2011 there have been 1,010 terrorist attacks identified in Europe. According to Europol, 152 terrorist attacks occurred in France, Spain, and the United Kingdom (Delivet, 2015). As a result, Europe employed multiple counterterrorism techniques to fight against terrorism. However, Europe’s current counterterrorism methods are not effective enough to deal with the threat posed by terrorism. Their current counterterrorism methods can risk individual rights and negatively affect their democracy. Europe needs to compose new counterterrorism methods that doesn’t include violence and doesn’t alter their democracy and core principles.

Rather than preventing terrorism, Europe's current policies and rules have created problems within their own nation. There were several instances in which a number of Europe's citizens were seen as terrorists. Terrorist groups in the Middle East have selected a specific group of European citizens to bring terrorism into the nation. Terrorist groups in the Middle East were able to take advantage of the easy access to Europe's passports and their policies on the freedom of movement. According to Marc Pierini (2015), a visiting scholar at Carnegie Europe, wrote that Europe experienced their most deadly attacks in 2012, 2014, and 2015 by French citizens who traveled frequently to Syria or Yemen. Europe's policies on the freedom of movement and their rules for passports are ineffective in dealing with the threat posed by terrorism. Due to this, arrest warrants and passport management are under watch as a way to prevent terrorism. This risks social diversity in Europe, which puts Europe's policies of Freedom of Movement and social unity at risk.

Racial profiling for counterterrorism in Europe is unethical and proves to be ineffective in dealing with the threat posed by terrorism. During a panel discussion, James Goldston (2007), executive of the Open Society Justice and former legal director of the European Roma Rights Center, stated, "It is a persuasive practice, but it will cause more problems than it will solve." *In the Ethnic Profiling in the European Union: Pervasive, Ineffective, and Discriminatory* (2009), the Open Society Justice Initiative reported there to be racial and ethnic profiling throughout all of Europe. Immigrants and minorities all around Europe have reported about feeling discriminated by the police. According to the Open Society Justice (2009), while many officials believe that racial profiling will be effective for counterterrorism, it will only cause ethnic populations to feel denounced and cause them to be uncooperative with the police. Maleiha Malik, a lecturer in law at a college in London who focuses on anti-discrimination law regarding

religious minorities and Muslim women, views racial profiling as counterproductive in limiting terrorism. Malik addresses that racial profiling will only result in minority communities feeling isolated and aggrieved. In Birmingham a substantial amount of Muslims live in ethnically isolated conditions. Malik adds, "That community is considered high-risk and has been the site of high-profile police raids, which have prompted the withdrawal of the Pakistani community from wider society," (as cited in Tigner, 2007). After the July 2005 London bombings, Italian officials performed identity checks on numerous Muslims and arrested 141 individuals. However, out of the 141 individuals that were arrested, only 2 were linked to terrorism activity. Italian authorities also initiated explosion procedures on thousands of individuals but it was discovered that the explosion procedures had nothing to do with terrorism (Morris, n.d.). Racial profiling also results in public discrimination rather than dealing with the threat posed by terrorism. Because government officials are using racial profiling to assume that Muslims and other immigrants are terrorists, it's causing the public to start harassing and vandalizing immigrant businesses. *In the Intolerance and Discrimination Against Muslims In Selected EU Member States* (2005), composed by the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights, it stated, "Vandalism against Muslim places of worship and businesses, as well as harassment and violent attacks against individuals, are problems that have grown significantly across Europe since 9/11." All in all, racial profiling isn't effective in dealing with terrorism. It causes more trouble within Europe than it does to deal with the threat posed by terrorism.

In order to deal with terrorism properly and effectively, Europe must not respond with violence. On November 13, 2015, Paris experienced detrimental terrorist attacks. Their response to these terrorist attacks were to fight back so that they can prevent it from occurring again. However, this method is not effective in preventing terrorism. According to Nikita Malik and

Shreya Das (2015), workers for the Quilliam Foundation, "Monitoring all the suspected radicals in France would require an estimated 264,000 agents – it is much more sustainable to invest in de-radicalization and counter-radicalization programs, than to thwart attacks." The purpose of the de-radicalization programs in Europe is to identify individuals with the possibility of being tied to terrorism. De-radicalization programs have the potential to be effective in dealing with terrorism. In 2013, a report was published emphasizing the effectiveness of a 16-hour course that reveals values to the participants using films and activities. "By the end of the course, participants showed sympathy for a broad range of values, and were much more likely to support conflict resolution through collaboration and compromise, rather than violence," (Malik and Das, 2015). Promoting de-radicalization programs throughout Europe to deal with terrorism would be more productive rather than fighting back with violence. Fighting terrorism with violence might prevent a terrorist from attacking, but fighting terrorism with de-radicalization programs will prevent a terrorist from developing.

In conclusion, the current counterterrorism techniques employed by the countries of Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and the USA are ineffective and insufficient to deal with the threat posed by terrorism. The governments in such countries need to take a more active, but less hostile, approach to dealing with terrorism. An overtly or excessively hostile targeting of any specific group (such as Muslims or Arabs) by a government can lead to a widespread lashing out against those groups by other citizens, even if not all of its members are terrorists. Therefore, it is necessary that the governments in these regions implement widespread de-radicalization programs as soon as possible to begin effectively countering the threat posed by terrorism.

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Does Divorce Affect a Child's Development?

According to Cierra Branch-Harris, "In America there is a stereotypical dream that adults are supposed to find their perfect soul mate, get married, have the white house with the picket fence and start a family. Too often than not, this dream is not a reality for most people living in the United States and other countries" (Branch-Harris, 2015). Divorce has become a common lifestyle for most families. The divorce rates are increasing and a parent being divorced is the new family structure (Wallerstein & Lewis, 2004). Hearing the word "divorce" so often makes individuals become insensitive to the situation and we tend to forget who mainly are affected by this life changing event, the children. In the words of Paul R. Amato, "Similarly, most studies find that divorced adults experience more mental and physical health problems than do children with continuously married parents" (Amato, 2015). In cases where both parties are in agreement and have no children it is easier to handle a divorce. But in the cases where children are present, what happens to the kids? Both parents are at each other's throats or one is devastated from the rejection, what role does the child play? It is a hard thing to cope with as an adult imagine as a little one or even a teenager, it affects them in more ways than anyone can imagine. More and more research is reporting evidence of a relationship between parental divorce and children who grow up to have their relationship end the same way (Branch-Harris, 2015). Children that have to suffer through divorce physically and mentally. They go through a couple stages of divorce. "Divorce comprises a series of transitions or stages for both adults and children. These stages are similar to stages Elisabeth Kubler Ross described for patients with terminal illness: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance." In the denial stage kids do not accept that their parents separate. The denial stage is followed by the anger stage. Within the anger stage, the child in mad at their parents for not trying harder to stay together and begin to blame them for making

them go through all pain they have gone through. Within this stage the child may also act up in a bad way. The next stage is the bargaining stage. In this stage the child tries to bring their parents back by improving their behavior and taking their responsibilities serious because they think they are the reasons their parents split. “Many studies have shown that children of divorce have more behavioral and conduct problems when compared with the children in intact two-parent families.” This helps show that children of divorce can act out a lot after divorce. Also, “They have more aggressive, impulsive, and antisocial behaviors and more problems in their relationships with their mothers and fathers. They exhibit lower academic achievement, with three of four children showing deterioration from their previous school performance.” This also shows how children can be affected by divorce. Not only by acting out a lot but also how they are affected socially and academically. “Preschoolers understand in concrete terms that their mother and father no longer live together. They fear abandonment. If one parent left, what would stop the other parent from leaving as well? To prevent the parent from leaving, they are eager and at times almost desperate to maintain a close tie. Children of this age respond to divorce much as they respond to other situations they perceive to be abandonment, such as when a parent first becomes employed outside the home or when a new person competes for attention of the parent. After the divorce, children get affected even worse.” The paradox of adolescence is that teenagers are not truly independent, but they like to feel that they are. They want to live their own lives on their own terms while having a safe haven for food, shelter, and sleep. They need to have a stable home base even if they hate it and the parents in it. They do not have time for this level of disruption in their lives. They are struggling with sex and drugs and alcohol and acne and classes they hate. They do not want to be bothered by their parents’ lives, which are in chaos from the divorce. Teenagers test the limits in the best of homes, but when the structure of the

home is shaky and the parents are distracted, teenagers are at risk of impulsive behavior. If impulsive risk-taking occurs, either they are forced to grow up too fast or they get into trouble.”

And “They might fail to become involved with their peer group or school activities. They have increased rates of school absence and illness. They are more likely to abuse substances, break the law, and appear in juvenile court than are children from intact homes.” .There is a very big chance that kids grow up to be like this. The children start to want to do their own things thinking that they can do everything on their own. In the teenage years for children of divorce is when they are greatly affected. The reason is because they have so many things on their mind at once that they go to drugs and alcohol to help them through their rough times. For today’s society, separation need ended up an ordinary relic Previously, our exists. Wedded couples today are getting An separation because of large portions different reasons, whichever in light An life

partner Hosting an affair, a passing from claiming sentimental feelings, clashes in the marriage, and

Different sorts for issues. Mossycup oak divorces need know youngsters that would by any means

youthful Also because of their period they don’t need any perfect on how should manage those sort

about circumstances. Constantly on from claiming us here live in the state of Kansas, we constantly on

try with Olathe soutane secondary School, and we the greater part have a companion alternately know

for somebody who need managed for separation. We bring know encountered this or know how it

meets expectations somehow if setting off through it ourselves or not. Know youngsters would the ones

who are typically influenced the most; they will must figure out should manage their parent's separate

toward such an adolescent age, influencing them to An certain or negative manner.

Although, separate by any means is not a great thing, Frequently it could be certain such as; know

youngsters constantly happy, guardians being happy, Furthermore permitting them on full grown.

Guardians being divided camwood make finer for the children as a result that point they don't must

manage those guardian battling. Assuming that they are place clinched alongside exceptional and stable

situations it camwood influence them On certain approaches. Frequently it may be likewise better to

the tyke if they bring been in the surroundings of abuse, such as; parent, brother, sister, or themselves

continuously abused. Though folks are content that point more than inclined those children need aid

happy, in light of those Youngsters gaze toward the guardian. Better relational abilities in the long run

will help guardian Furthermore Youngsters make All the more understanding with each other.

Not

Numerous divorces wind great or Significantly start off great however it could be a finer relic for anyone

in the gang relying upon those circumstance.

Separate might be negative bringing on distance if it is kids losing their self-esteem, not having the

capacity on trust anyone, guardian favoritism, or monetary help for school. Despite i bring not needed

on manage my guardians divorcing (and hopefully i won't need to) my mother need Run through it and

says that it is a extreme relic should experience. Kids appear to be to lose their respect toward oneself

because of the absence of association that they have for a guardian. For this being said they are less

averse to middle of the road What's more have that's only the tip of the iceberg issues over different children for both guardians. The children also begin blaming themselves to the reason for those separate. For not Comprehending or seeing those true reason, the result finishing with extra anxiety place on the youngster. Similarly as Youngsters get more seasoned they tend will manufacture a stronger bond for you quit offering on that one or both guardian. A companion about mine will be setting off through a separate with her guardian Also she says she is Hosting trust issues with a standout amongst her folks. Not having the ability will trust anybody reasons them with not stake their genuine emotions Since they feel surrendered alternately alone with nobody that they camwood converse with. At youngsters need nobody on converse with they might turned harder on control On account they don't know whatever viable best approach with stake their emotions. Setting kids On specific circumstances the place they must picked one guardian In alternate camwood a chance to be traumatizing. What is said, not having the ability will perceive starting with the child's purpose for perspective. The point when folks separate those store to school dives down mossycup oak of the The effect that divorce has on children's development occasion when on folks don't aggravate Similarly as considerably cash. Facts indicate that something like \$1,800 lesquerella that the mothball gives What's more around \$1,000 lesquerella that those father tan supplies. For the cash those person loses starting with those folks it includes a greater amount stress of the single person abandoning them should pay for school in whatever approach they camwood Figure. Separate will be tricky to Any individual on manage yet all the same time the guardian would attempting with fix their issues they need to verify they aren't a really narcissistic Also pay additional thoughtfulness regarding their

children. Feelings need aid a enormous and only life particularly At managing something Along these lines was troublesome for example, separate. Kids appear will make unstable Furthermore anxious to the thing that the future will bring them. Kids about separate address their future because of those precariousness they've encountered. Pity need An huge influence looking into how those know

youngsters act and believe. They might believe that they will never have a true crew once more Also that their method for term is toward an end, to instance; my companion may be dependably asking with banter a direct result she says her life is such a catastrophe Furthermore she doesn't think the thing that will do should fix it. Whether pity dives ahead to excessively yearn it might prompt a great part anxiety or misery. The divorce rates are increasing and a parent being divorced is the new family structure (Wallerstein & Lewis, 2004). It is estimated that at least half of new marriages will end in divorce. She proposed that young adults who believe their parents have low levels of marital quality will be less likely approve of divorce (Kapinus, 2005). This study conducted by Kapinus used a twelve year longitudinal study sample of married individuals surveyed in 1980, 1983, 1988 and 1992. Cartwright (2006) conducted life-story interviews with forty young adults aged 19-20 years old who experienced parental separation as adolescents. The interviews examined the participants' own views of how parental divorce impacted them in their lives. Do couples of divorce produce children who divorce? Glenn and Kramer (1987) looked at children's susceptibility to divorce by race and gender. In addition to finding children's proneness to divorce they analyzed the possible explanations for the intergenerational transmission of divorce.

AP[®] SEMINAR

2016 SCORING COMMENTARY

Performance Task 1 — Written Team Report

Overview

This task assessed students' ability to:

- Conduct collaborative research; and
- Collaborate in the development of a cohesive, well-written argument on a chosen topic.

Sample: A

Content Area: Understanding and Analyzing Context — Row 1 Score: 6

Content Area: Understanding and Analyzing Perspective — Row 2 Score: 6

Content Area: Selecting and Using Evidence — Row 3 Score: 6

Content Area: Building and Communicating an Argument — Row 4 Score: 6

Content Area: Selecting and Using Evidence — Row 5 Score: 3

Content Area: Grammar and Style — Row 6 Score: 3

HIGH SAMPLE RESPONSE

Content Area: Understanding and Analyzing Context — Row 1

The response earned 6 points for this row because the question of whether the Ukraine should prioritize nuclear energy is situated in a complex manner involving a variety of stakeholders in a decision-making process that has political, economic, and environmental considerations. By arguing that Ukraine's independence may be dependent upon its energy choices, the introduction sets up a clear rationale for the essay's inquiry.

Content Area: Understanding and Analyzing Perspectives — Row 2

The response earned 6 points for this row because it identifies categories (political, economic, environmental) through which the perspectives of stakeholders (Ukraine, Russia, EU, etc.) can be understood and evaluated. The critical evaluation of Satvisky's argument on page 5, for example, is very well done.

Content Area: Selecting and Using Evidence — Row 3

The response earned 6 points for this row because the essay embraces the overlapping implications of the political, economic and environmental ramifications of the nuclear energy decision. For example, the essay does an excellent job of evaluating the Chernobyl accident in light of this question and through all of the categories established. Great synthesis.

Content Area: Building and Communicating and Argument — Row 4

The response earned 6 points for this row because, throughout its argument, the essay discusses the consequences and implications of Ukraine's decision to accept or reject nuclear energy as a priority. On page 3 (para 2), for example, the essay offers a succinct understanding of what would happen economically and politically if Ukraine decided to prioritize gas over nuclear energy.

Content Area: Selecting and Using Evidence — Row 5

The response earned 3 points for this row because the report appears to accurately attribute and cite sources used. The reference page includes all referenced sources and is consistent and complete in citation elements.

Content Area: Grammar and Style — Row 6

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Performance Task 1 — Written Team Report

The response earned 3 points for this row because the report contains few flaws in grammar and style and clearly communicates to the reader.

Sample: B

Content Area: Understanding and Analyzing Context — Row 1 Score: 4

Content Area: Understanding and Analyzing Perspective — Row 2 Score: 4

Content Area: Selecting and Using Evidence — Row 3 Score: 4

Content Area: Building and Communicating an Argument — Row 4 Score: 4

Content Area: Selecting and Using Evidence — Row 5 Score: 2

Content Area: Grammar and Style — Row 6 Score: 3

MEDIUM SAMPLE RESPONSE

Content Area: Understanding and Analyzing Context — Row 1

This response earned 4 points for this row because the report explores a problem of reasonable complexity placed in a clear context. The response states, "the current counterterrorism methods employed by the USA, Middle East, Africa, and Europe are not effective enough to deal the threat posed by terrorism." The response also provides a reasonable rationale for the research. The response states, "Fear, especially of terrorist attacks can drive people to do crazy things and generally leads to economic, political, ethical, and social chaos. In order to bring terrorism to a halt, countries around the world are all implementing different counterterrorism methods."

Content Area: Understanding and Analyzing Perspectives — Row 2

This response earned 4 points because it identifies relevant, but oversimplified perspectives from various regions such as Africa, Middle East, and Europe; also from the countries of the United States and Turkey. However, the response talks about the Shiite and Sunni Muslims (page 2 paragraph 2), the Iraqis and Syrians (page 3 top line), and terrorist groups such as ISIS (page 2 paragraph 2), Al-Qaeda (page 2 paragraph 2), and Boko Haram (page 5 paragraph 2). These groups are talked "about" versus a perspective developed through the evidence. The response never moves past listing the perspectives, and the perspectives themselves have little depth and often cover the same ground in the same way. While the paper does focus on Islamic terrorism, there is no evaluation or discussion of other terrorist acts or organizations, leading to relevant but limited perspectives. The evidence and arguments given are seldom evaluated for validity. Additionally, the response demonstrates a simplistic understanding of the arguments and how it aligns to the conclusion. For example, "There is some evidence that indicates that although counterterrorism techniques have been and still are lacking the strength and decisiveness necessary to deal with terrorism, they are improving...Therefore, it is necessary that the governments in these regions implement widespread de-radicalization programs as soon as possible to begin effectively countering the threat posed by terrorism."

Content Area: Selecting and Using Evidence — Row 3

This response earned 4 points because the report synthesizes evidence well in isolated arguments. For example, the report discusses each region's antiterrorism attempts and failures in order; Turkey, Middle East, Africa, USA, and then Europe. The segmentation of its organization and sparse connections between segments (both between evidence and arguments) make the paper lack the level of cohesion for a higher score.

Content Area: Building and Communicating an Argument — Row 4

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Performance Task 1 — Written Team Report

This response earned 4 points because while the response does briefly explore resolutions, there is no link to specific evidence in the conclusion beyond implication, and the conclusion also fails to explore implications of the solution offered. Instead, they offer a warning of what could happen if their solution is not implemented, which is not the same as exploring the implications of their solution itself. For example the response states, "The governments in such countries need to take a more active, but less hostile, approach to dealing with terrorism. An overtly or excessively hostile targeting of any specific group (such as Muslims or Arabs) by a government can lead to a widespread lashing out against those groups by other citizens, even if not all of its members are terrorists. Therefore, it is necessary that the governments in these regions implement widespread de-radicalization programs as soon as possible to begin effectively countering the threat posed by terrorism."

Content Area: Selecting and Using Evidence — Row 5

This response earned 2 points because while there are only a few instances of problems with internal citation, the bibliography is inconsistent in style, format, and content. It seems more like the individual paper bibliographies were pasted together instead of a single bibliography for the group paper. It is not fully alphabetized, and many of the entries contain hyperlinks or are not properly/consistently formatted. For example, "In response, the Somali government called on Ethiopian forces to drive out the terrorists (B.B.C, 2015). "BBC Monitoring. (December 6, 2013) Africa's militant Islamist groups. bbc.com. Retrieved from <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-24587491>"

Content Area: Grammar and Style — Row 6

This response earned 3 points because communication is clear, there are no egregious errors in grammar or style, and is generally easy to understand.

Sample: C

Content Area: Understanding and Analyzing Context — Row 1 Score: 2

Content Area: Understanding and Analyzing Perspective — Row 2 Score: 2

Content Area: Selecting and Using Evidence — Row 3 Score: 2

Content Area: Building and Communicating an Argument — Row 4 Score: 2

Content Area: Selecting and Using Evidence — Row 5 Score: 1

Content Area: Grammar and Style — Row 6 Score: 1

LOW SAMPLE RESPONSE

Content Area: Understanding and Analyzing Context — Row 1

This response scores a 2 because the problem is stated simplistically as a yes/no issue, "Does Divorce Affect a Child's Development?" The response presented no rationale for the inquiry process beyond "Hearing the word 'divorce' so often makes individuals become insensitive to the situation and we tend to forget who mainly are affected by this life changing event, the children." The context is not provided beyond the simplest implied idea that children are hurt by divorce.

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Performance Task 1 — Written Team Report

Content Area: Understanding and Analyzing Perspectives — Row 2

This response earned 2 points because it is generally limited to the perspective of children/teenagers with a one-dimensional, surface analysis with no discussion of validity. For example, "The children start to want to do their own things thinking that they can do everything on their own. In the teenage years for children of divorce is when they are greatly affected." The response is mostly repetitive throughout, with no insight, analysis, discussion, or exploration of opposing ideas.

Content Area: Selecting and Using Evidence — Row 3

This response earned 2 points because the evidence provided is insufficient to prove an argument, and there is little to no commentary to draw connections and does not synthesize its parts. Specifically, the response very clearly consists of multiple disparate works copied into a singular document with no composition of connecting material. The response fails to build an argument, with large sections of the paper consisting purely of unsubstantiated claims and opinions.

Content Area: Building and Communicating and Argument — Row 4

This response earned 2 points because it lacks any conclusion nor does it explore implications or consequences. The response concludes with an opinion/rant rather than tying it to evidence. For example, "The paradox of adolescence is that teenagers are not truly independent, but they like to feel that they are. They want to live their own lives on their own terms while having a safe haven for food, shelter, and sleep. They need to have a stable home base even if they hate it and the parents in it. They do not have time for this level of disruption in their lives. They are struggling with sex and drugs and alcohol and acne and classes they hate. They do not want to be bothered by their parents' lives, which are in chaos..."

Content Area: Selecting and Using Evidence — Row 5

This response earned 1 point because it has many errors in attribution and citation. For example, "Many studies have shown that children of divorce have more behavioral and conduct problems when compared with the children in intact two-parent families." [no citation present]. There is also a complete absence of a bibliography.

Content Area: Grammar and Style — Row 6

This response earned 1 point because it has numerous and egregious grammar errors that heavily interfere with the reader's ability to understand the work. "For today's society, separation need ended up an ordinary relic previously, our exists. Wedded couples today are getting An separation because of large portions different reasons, whichever in light..."