



UNITED STATES  
INSTITUTE OF PEACE  
*Making Peace Possible*

# STUDY GUIDE

*for the* 2022

## NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST Partnerships For Peace In A Multipolar Era

Contest Deadline: April 4, 2022

**Sponsored by:** American Foreign Service Association | United States Institute of Peace |  
Semester at Sea | National Student Leadership Conference

**Guide created and produced by:** United States Institute of Peace

## **First Place\***

- Educational Voyage with Semester at Sea
- Washington, D.C. visit for family to meet with State Department leadership and Presidents of AFSA and USIP
- Cash award of \$2,500

\*Sponsors will consult with the winner on travel-based prizes to account for COVID-19 restrictions.

## **Second Place\***

- Scholarship to attend the National Student Leadership Conference's International Diplomacy Program
- Cash award of \$1,250

\*Sponsors will consult with the winner on travel-based prizes to account for COVID-19 restrictions.

## **Honorable Mentions**

- Certificate of achievement

# INTRODUCTION

## for Students

Now in its 24th year, the American Foreign Service Association (AFSA)'s National High School Essay Contest encourages students to think about how and why the United States engages globally to build peace and about the role that diplomacy plays in advancing U.S. national security and economic prosperity.

The 2022 essay contest focuses on the new context and opportunities the current multipolar era provides the United States for partnerships to build peace in conflict-affected countries. It challenges you to expand your understanding of peacebuilding as an effective foreign policy tool and to explore how partnerships can make a peacebuilding initiative successful. Amid truly global challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic, partnerships for peace can play a particularly critical role. The U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP), a sponsor of the contest, has developed this study guide in partnership with AFSA to provide a basic introduction to the topic and some additional context that can assist you in answering the question. However, you are tasked with developing your own unique response and, as such, this guide should only be used as a starting point to your own research.

In this guide, you will find: the essay question, prizes, and rules for the contest; an introduction to diplomacy and peacebuilding; key terms; topics and areas you might explore; and a list of other useful resources.



Central African Republic President Touadéra meets USIP Senior Advisor and former Ambassador Johnnie Carson and USIP Board of Directors Vice Chair and former Ambassador George Moose during a visit to USIP's headquarters. USIP programs in CAR seek to establish effective two-way communication between government officials and communities on local security concerns.

Credit: U.S. Institute of Peace

# 2022 NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL Essay Contest Topic

## PARTNERSHIPS FOR PEACE IN A MULTIPOLAR ERA

The current multipolar era poses challenges for U.S. foreign policy but also provides new opportunities for partnerships across world powers — including emerging great powers like China and Russia — to build peace in conflict-affected countries. Describe a current situation where American diplomats and peacebuilders are working with other world powers, as well as local and/or regional actors, in a conflict-affected country to champion democracy, promote human rights, and/or resolve violent conflict.

A successful essay will lay out, in no more than 1,250 words, the strategies and tactics that members of the U.S. Foreign Service and American peacebuilders are employing to build successful partnerships with other world and regional powers and with local actors in the chosen current situation. The essay will also describe specific ways that these partnerships are helping to promote stability and build peace.

### Diplomats and Peacebuilders

For this essay contest, you are challenged to look at how the U.S. Foreign Service — or diplomats — and American peacebuilders are building successful partnerships with others in a current conflict-affected country. Below is a general introduction to diplomacy and peacebuilding, including specific tools or approaches each has available.

### DIPLOMACY

Diplomacy is a fundamental means by which a country's foreign policy is implemented. In the United States, diplomatic efforts are led by the U.S. Department of State, whose mission it is to "lead America's foreign policy through diplomacy, advocacy, and assistance by advancing the interests of the American people, their safety and economic prosperity" ("About State").

The key policies of the State Department tend to fall into five main categories:

- Protecting the United States and American citizens
- Advancing democracy
- Defending human rights
- Encouraging economic growth and prosperity
- Promoting international understanding of American values and policies ("What are the Key Policies")



Foreign Service Officer David Becker, at right, hears from local leaders in Cité Soleil, Port au Prince, in 2009.

Credit: Photo via FSJ, courtesy of David Becker

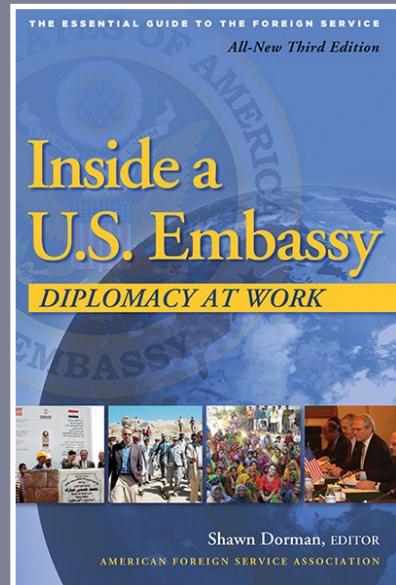
Diplomacy is put into practice by those working at embassies abroad — many of whom are Foreign Service Officers (FSOs) or Specialists, a professional career track. Members of the Foreign Service at the U.S. Department of State are assigned to one of five “cones”: consular, economic, management, political or public diplomacy. In *Inside a U.S. Embassy: Diplomacy at Work*, AFSA provides snapshots of the important work each of these positions plays in embassies around the world:

- **Consular Officers** serve as the public face of the United States in an embassy, determining which foreign nationals should — and should not — receive visas for legitimate travel to the United States for business, tourism or education. They also provide support to American citizens travelling or living abroad.
- **Economic Officers** help anticipate economic trends and new opportunities for U.S. companies abroad. Their portfolio includes environment, science, technology, health and labor issues.
- **Management Officers** enable embassies to function, handling human resources, budget and real estate issues.
- **Political Officers** are subject matter experts who build relationships with local governments, media, nongovernmental organizations and think tanks. They report back on events happening in the country and provide analysis of how developments might impact U.S. policy objectives.
- **Public Diplomacy Officers** serve as the public relations team, delivering the story of the United States to people around the world. They must have awareness of all aspects of the embassy’s work and be prepared to advise on the best way to message it to local media, officials, educators and people (Adams-Smith, 215-220).

The professionals of the U.S. Foreign Service have developed a concrete set of tools that help them pursue U.S. policy objectives. The National Museum of American Diplomacy at the U.S. Department of State highlights some specific tools with definitions from the Diplomatic Dictionary:

- **Bilateral:** discussions, negotiations or treaties are between a sovereign state and one other entity, either another sovereign state or an international organization. The relationship between two nations is referred to as a bilateral relationship.
- **Multilateral:** Involving more than two nations. International organizations, such as the United Nations, the World Trade Organization and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe are multilateral in nature.
- **Negotiation:** Discussion between the representatives of two or more parties intended to reach a compromise on a disputed topic of interest. Governmental negotiations can be bilateral (between two states or between a state and a non-state entity, such as an international organization or nongovernmental organization) or multilateral.
- **Treaty:** An agreement or arrangement made by negotiation; a contract in writing between two or more political authorities, such as sovereign states, formally signed by authorized representatives and usually approved by the legislature of the state.

## FEATURED RESOURCE: INSIDE A U.S. EMBASSY





Women participate in a dialogue on preventing violent extremism in Nairobi, Kenya, organized by the Sisters Without Borders network, in partnership with USIP and with the support of the U.S. Department of State's Office of Global Women's Issues.

Credit: U.S. Institute of Peace

- **Convention:** An assembly of persons who meet for a common purpose; especially a meeting of delegates for the purpose of formulating a written agreement on specific issues. The word also refers to the written agreement itself (“Diplomatic Dictionary”).

For more insights into the work of the U.S. Department of State, be sure to explore the National Museum of American Diplomacy at <https://diplomacy.state.gov/>.

## PEACEBUILDING

Conflict is often viewed as something negative, associated with violence, war and destructive acts. However, conflict is actually a natural part of life, and it can be managed in ways that promote positive outcomes — even in the most difficult circumstances — if the right tools are put into practice.

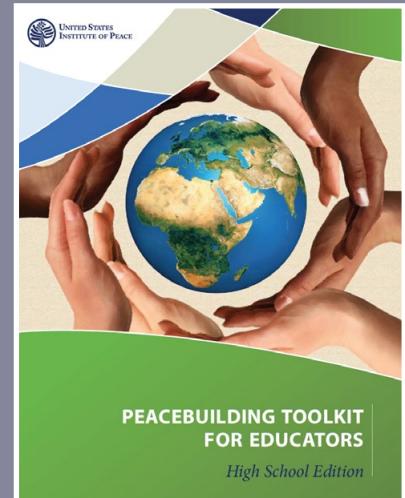
Peacebuilders have many tools and approaches at their disposal, depending on the type of conflict they are facing. This is why **conflict analysis** is essential: it allows for the necessary information-gathering that can dissect and understand a conflict and identify the most effective potential responses. Conflict analysis helps organize complex environments, including parties, issues, relationships, perceptions, history, roots of the conflict and structural impediments to a solution (“Peacebuilding Toolkit for Educators”).

With this information in hand, it is possible then to assess what specific tools or approaches are most needed in any particular case. These include, but are not limited to:

- **Communication** is a core concept in conflict management, and effective communication covers both speaking and listening. When one side in a conflict does not feel as though they are being heard, they may be reluctant to engage with other parties. By using active listening skills, parties in conflict can demonstrate that they want to understand the other party and ultimately build trust.
- **Negotiation** is a regular part of everyday life, though it can be difficult to do well — especially in conflict zones and fragile states. It is the process of communication and bargaining between parties seeking to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome on issues of shared concern. Negotiation often involves exploring the difference between positions (what people want) and interests (what people need).
- **Mediation** has been used as an effective method of alternative dispute resolution in many contexts, ranging from neighbor disputes to conflicts between nations. It is a mode of negotiation in which a mutually acceptable third party helps the parties to a conflict find a solution that they cannot find by themselves.
- **Facilitated Dialogue** is a conflict-intervention process that brings together various stakeholders in a conflict or around a problem or concern, to express, listen to, explore, and better understand diverse views in order to transform individual, relational, or structural drivers of conflict.
- **Reconciliation** is the long-term process by which parties to a violent dispute build trust, learn to live cooperatively, and create a stable peace. It can happen at the

## FEATURED RESOURCE:

Peacebuilding Toolkit  
for Educators





Acting Consul General Bill Bent and locally employed staff member Ingrid Hernandez assisting U.S. citizens at El Salvador's International Airport, March 2020.

Credit: Photo by Claire Dennis, Vice Consul at U.S. Embassy San Salvador

individual level, the community level, and the national level. It may involve dialogue, admissions of guilt, judicial processes, truth commissions, ritual forgiveness, and sulha (a traditional Arabic form of ritual forgiveness and restitution).

Developing a better understanding of your selected current situation through conflict analysis and of the tools and approaches of peacebuilding will help you effectively answer this year's prompt.

The U.S. Institute of Peace and others working in complex environments use the above tools and more every day to prevent and resolve violent conflicts. You can learn more about peacebuilding tools at [www.usip.org](http://www.usip.org).

## OTHER KEY TERMS

In addition to the range of diplomatic and peacebuilding tools discussed above, a specialized set of terminology has developed related to working in countries affected by or vulnerable to violent conflict. Below are some key terms used by people working to resolve violent conflict around the world that may inform or guide your research into partnerships for peace in a multipolar era. These terms explain language or concepts used in the prompt and throughout this guide and highlight strategies and tactics members of the Foreign Service and peacebuilders might use to build successful partnerships. These definitions are drawn from USIP's *Peace Terms: Glossary of Terms for Conflict Management and Peacebuilding*.

**Capacity Building:** Enabling people, organizations, and societies to develop, strengthen, and expand their abilities to meet their goals or fulfill their mandates. Capacity is strengthened by developing knowledge and skills that enhance individual and collective abilities to deliver services and carry out programs in a sustainable way. A long-term and continuous process that focuses on developing human resources, organizational strength, and legal structures, it involves all stakeholders including civil society.

**Civil-Military Cooperation:** The collaborative relationships between civilian and military actors in a conflict environment. Civilian actors may include government officials, staff from international organizations, and representatives of nongovernmental organizations. Cooperation ranges from occasional informational meetings to comprehensive programs where civilian and military partners share planning and implementation. These efforts can be controversial, as the military may see civilians as unduly complicating their mission, and civilians — especially in the humanitarian field — may think that any association with the military will compromise their impartiality and threaten their personal safety. Most experts, however, see civilian-military cooperation as necessary to provide the security, knowledge, and skills needed to help transform a conflict into an enduring peace.

**Conflict Management:** A general term that describes efforts to prevent, limit, contain, or resolve conflicts, especially violent ones, while building up the capacities of all parties involved to undertake peacebuilding. It is based on the concept that conflicts are a normal part of human interaction and are rarely completely resolved or eliminated, but can be managed by such measures as negotiation, mediation, conciliation, and arbitration. Conflict management also supports the longer-term development of societal systems and institutions that enhance good governance, rule of law, security, economic sustainability, and social well-being, which helps prevent future conflicts.

**Conflict Transformation:** A recently developed concept that emphasizes addressing the structural roots of conflict by changing existing patterns of behavior and creating a culture of nonviolent approaches. It proposes an integrated approach to peacebuilding that aims to bring about long-term changes in personal, relational, structural, and cultural dimensions.



Youth peacebuilders gather in Dharamsala, India, for an annual dialogue organized by USIP and His Holiness the Dalai Lama. The Generation Change Fellows Program partners with young leaders across the globe to foster collaboration, build resilience and strengthen capacity as they transform local communities. It is a partnership between USIP and the USC Center for Religion and Civic Culture.

Credit: U.S. Institute of Peace

Recognizing that societies in conflict have existing systems that still function, conflict transformation focuses on building up local institutions as well as reducing drivers of conflict.

**Fragility:** The absence or breakdown of a social contract between people and their government. Fragile states suffer from deficits of institutional capacity and political legitimacy that increase the risk of instability and violent conflict and sap the state of its resilience to disruptive shocks.

**International Community:** Literally, the term means all the countries of the world, or at least its major political leaders and organizations. Implies a consensus on specific issues such as human rights, but some critics charge that it mostly is used to refer to Western views. Examples include the United Nations, International Criminal Court, International Civil Aviation Organization, and various groups of NGOs that provide relief during natural disasters. The term should not be seen, however, as synonymous with world government or global governance, which imply a sovereign power over states.

**Multitrack Diplomacy:** Efforts that operate on several tracks simultaneously, including official and unofficial conflict resolution efforts, citizen and scientific exchanges, international business negotiations, international cultural and athletic activities, and other cooperative efforts. These efforts could be led by governments, professional organizations, businesses, churches, media, private citizens, training and educational institutes, activists, and funders.

**Peacebuilding:** Originally conceived in the context of post-conflict recovery efforts to promote reconciliation and reconstruction, the term peacebuilding has more recently taken on a broader meaning. It may include providing humanitarian relief, protecting human rights, ensuring security, establishing nonviolent modes of resolving conflicts, fostering reconciliation, providing trauma healing services, repatriating refugees, and resettling internally displaced persons, supporting broad-based education, and aiding in economic reconstruction. As such, it also includes conflict prevention in the sense of preventing the recurrence of violence, as well as conflict management and post-conflict recovery. In a larger sense, peacebuilding involves a transformation toward more manageable, peaceful relationships and governance structures – the long-term process of addressing root causes and effects, reconciling differences, normalizing relations, and building institutions that can manage conflict without resorting to violence.

**Whole-Of-Government Approach:** The collaborative efforts of a government's departments and agencies to achieve a shared goal. Also known as interagency approach. Unity of effort and unity of purpose are sometimes used to describe cooperation among all actors, government and otherwise.

## **EXPLORING PARTNERSHIPS FOR PEACE IN A MULTIPOLAR ERA**

This year's prompt asks you to identify tactics and strategies that the U.S. Foreign Service and American peacebuilders employ to build successful partnerships with key actors in a chosen current situation. The prompt lists several actors you should consider, from other world powers to local and/or regional actors. When responding to a complex crisis like the situation you select, we know success hinges on an inclusive approach and effective coordination with partners at all levels.

One level is within the U.S. government. Just as U.S. Foreign Service members and American peacebuilders partner with each other, they also consider how to best work with other branches of the U.S. government when operating in a conflict-affected country. In a USIP PeaceBrief, Cole and Koppell reveal how "increasingly, the



U.S. Agency for International Development officer Michelle Jennings assists a U.S. citizen preparing for his repatriation flight at the U.S. Embassy in Lima, Peru.

Credit: American Foreign Service Association

U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. Department of State, and the U.S. Agency for International Development are working simultaneously — and sometimes collaboratively — in countries and regions marked by conflict and fragility” (Cole and Koppell, 1). As you research your chosen situation, you might consider how the Foreign Service and American peacebuilders built successful partnerships within the interagency for a whole-of-government approach.

Another level to consider is between governments. The current multipolar era reflects the rise of other world powers, including emerging great powers like China and Russia. As these and regional powers seek to extend their influence, the United States faces challenges to U.S. foreign policy, but also new opportunities for partnerships to build peace in conflict-affected countries. “Coordinated international response efforts in [fragile countries], with support from civil society, is critical ... It is incumbent upon international donors like the United States to lead collaborative efforts and policy processes on the ground” (Conflict Prevention and Fragility Working Group). You should consider how the Foreign Service and American peacebuilders have built partnerships and led collaboration among the international community, including individual powers at the global and regional level as well as organizations, in your selected situation.

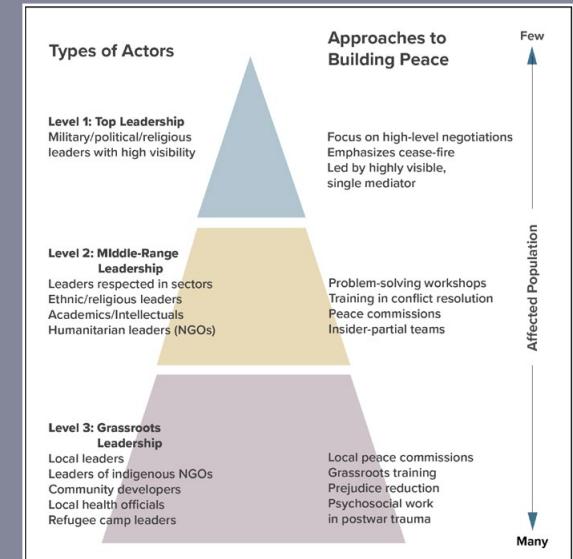
Finally, we know that peacebuilding efforts are most successful when the international community partners with local policymakers and groups. This prompt challenges you to identify how members of the Foreign Service and American peacebuilders have partnered with local actors in your chosen situation, such as local governments, religious and civil society leaders, NGOs, women, youth, and others.

As you begin your research, here are some topics and areas you might consider exploring. We hope that these topics will expand your understanding of the prompt, offer you fresh ideas on areas to research, and help you identify a current case to study. They reflect some of the critical and timely global issues on which the Foreign Service and American peacebuilders work. As you explore these topics and areas, consider what role diplomats and American peacebuilders play in this work, what strategies and tactics they have used to build partnerships within these areas, and how partnerships are helping promote stability and build peace.

- **Global Fragility Act** which “makes preventing internal conflicts [in other countries] a U.S. foreign policy priority and articulates a set of peacebuilding and do-no-harm principles that federal agencies should adhere to” (Graff and Beckelman). This article offers five key considerations to make the U.S. global fragility strategy work, including aligning U.S. efforts with those of international partners: <https://www.usip.org/publications/2021/07/five-key-considerations-make-us-global-fragility-strategy-work>.
- More information on the Global Fragility Act and the Conflict Prevention and Fragility Working Group can be found here: <https://www.usip.org/programs/conflict-prevention-and-fragility-working-group>.

## FEATURED RESOURCE:

### John Paul Lederach's Peacebuilding Pyramid



(Lederach, 39)

- ***Conflict prevention in the COVID-19 era***, when “tackling the pandemic and building resilience in fragile states requires concerted international action at local, national, and global levels” (Papoulidis, Graff, and Beckelman). While the current COVID-19 crisis runs the risk of exacerbating conflicts around the world, it also offers new opportunities for collaboration among the international community on conflict prevention and peacebuilding. This article offers suggestions — and a case study — for how the U.S. might lead this effort: <https://www.usip.org/publications/2020/07/amid-covid-we-need-enhanced-international-coordination-build-peace>.
  - More information on the intersection of the global response to COVID-19 and conflict prevention can be found here: <https://www.usip.org/prioritizing-peace-during-pandemic>.

## CLIMATE, COVID, AND CHINA DRIVE U.S.-PACIFIC ISLAND ENGAGEMENT (AUGUST 9, 2021)

“The Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) held its 51st leaders meeting on August 6, 2021, with Fiji serving as virtual host. The PIF is comprised of 18 members, and the United States is among 18 PIF Dialogue Partners that participate in an annual post-forum dialogue. This year, President Joe Biden led the U.S. delegation and delivered his own address, a first for a U.S. president and a demonstration of the strategic importance of Pacific Island nations to U.S. priorities like climate change, COVID-19 and competition with China. USIP’s Jennifer Staats and Brian Harding discuss what PIF members and Washington want from each other and the major issues facing the region” (Staats and Harding).

<https://www.usip.org/publications/2021/08/climate-covid-and-china-drive-us-pacific-islands-engagement>

- ***Climate Change***, which offers the U.S. and its allies opportunities for partnership. This article suggests basic priorities the international community should consider in assistance programs, including “target[ing] cities with a strategy that helps local populations adapt to climate change and manage conflicts nonviolently, and strengthen[ing] regional organizations’ abilities to tackle fragility problems” (Blaine): <https://www.usip.org/publications/2021/07/climate-change-risks-new-violent-conflict-how-respond>.
  - More information on climate change, conflict, and peace can be found here: <https://www.usip.org/issue-areas/economics-environment>.
- ***U.S.-China competition in Africa***, which presents challenges but also potential “opportunities for the United States, China, and African countries to cooperate in areas of mutual interests” (Sany and Sheehy). This article explores those areas, offering past examples of cooperation in South Sudan: <https://www.usip.org/publications/2021/04/sidestepping-great-power-rivalry-us-china-competition-africa>.
  - More information on emerging great power China can be found here: <https://www.usip.org/regions/asia/china>.

## THE BEST HOPE FOR SUSTAINED DE-ESCALATION IN SYRIA

(NOV. 18, 2020)

"As the conflict in Syria approaches its 10th anniversary, a holistic political settlement encompassing the entirety of the country is unlikely in the near to medium term. More than eight years of diplomatic initiatives have yielded only limited results. The two principal tracks—the Geneva and the Astana/Sochi processes—are running up against the complexity of the conflict and an emboldened Assad regime; neither process is sufficient on its own to generate momentum toward a lasting political settlement for the whole of Syria. However, creatively bridging these two processes could bring greater stability to those areas of Syria still beyond the Assad regime's control, assuaging the suffering of some Syrians, and potentially serving as a building block for a longer-term settlement.

Barring a major strategic shift in diplomacy, developments on the ground could render both diplomatic efforts obsolete. Instead, negotiation efforts should pivot to develop innovative approaches to bridge the Geneva and Astana processes. This bridging effort would focus on consolidating fragile cease-fires in Syria's northwest and northeast regions, and anchoring some semblance of stability in these areas through improved humanitarian access and enhancing local governance structures" (Yacoubian).

<https://www.usip.org/publications/2020/11/best-hope-sustained-de-escalation-syria>

## USEFUL RESOURCES

Here are some additional resources that might be helpful as you start your research. Also, keep an eye on the AFSA social media accounts (@afsatweets on Twitter and @afsapage on Facebook) and the USIP Public Education team's social media accounts (@buildingpeace on Twitter and @buildingpeace1984 on Facebook) as they will regularly share other resources that might provide further insights.

### ***Inside a U.S. Embassy: Diplomacy at Work***

This AFSA publication shows you what it is like to work in an embassy through profiles of actual members of the Foreign Service and their experiences around the world.

### ***USIP.org***

USIP's website can provide further information on peacebuilding approaches and tools and examples of international partnerships on peacebuilding initiatives around the world.

### ***The Foreign Service Journal***

This journal covers foreign affairs from an insider's perspective, providing thought-provoking articles on international issues, the practice of diplomacy, and the U.S. Foreign Service.

### ***The MLA Style Center***

Per the essay contest rules, your citations and bibliography should follow the MLA Style. The Modern Language Association's websites has a [quick guide](#) to works cited, guidance [on using notes](#), and [sample papers](#) using MLA Style. This study guide follows MLA guidelines on parenthetical citations, end notes, and bibliographies.

## **CONTEST RULES**

**Length:** Your essay should be at least 1,000 words but should not exceed 1,250 words (word count does not apply to the list of sources). The word count must be included on the document you submit.

**Content and Judging:** Submissions will be judged on the quality of analysis, quality of research, and form, style and mechanics. **Successful entries will answer all aspects of the prompt and demonstrate an understanding of the role of the Foreign Service.**

Essays will be evaluated over several rounds of judging until a winner, runner-up, and eight honorable mentions are determined. All decisions of the judges are final.

**Sources:** Standards of content and style from the current edition of the **MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers** will be expected for (1) documentation of sources in the text of your essay; (2) the format of the list of works cited; and (3) margins and indentation. A bibliography following the MLA Handbook must be included. Essays should use a variety of sources—academic journals, news magazines, newspapers, books, government documents, publications from research organizations. At least three of the cited materials should be primary sources (a document, speech, or other sort of evidence written, created or otherwise produced during the time under study). General encyclopedias, including Wikipedia, are not acceptable as sources. Essays citing general encyclopedias in notes or bibliography **will be disqualified**. Websites should not be the only source of information for your essay; when you do use online sources, they must be properly cited.

### **Submission:**

- Fill out the registration form. All fields on the online form are required, including uploading a Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) file of your original work with a title, in English, and should include a comprehensive list of sources consulted. Entries must be typed, double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman or an equivalent font with a one-inch margin on all sides of the page.
- Teacher or Sponsor: Student registration forms must have a teacher or sponsor name. That person may review the submitted essay and act as the key contact between participants and AFSA. It is to the student's advantage to have a coordinator review the essay to make sure it is complete, contains all the necessary forms, is free from typographical and grammatical errors, and addresses the topic.
- **Do not place your last name or your school's name on any of the pages of the essay. Only the registration form should include this information.**
- Faxed submissions will not be accepted.
- Your essay will be disqualified if it does not meet the requirements or is submitted after the submission date of 11:59 p.m. EDT on April 4, 2022.

**Eligibility:** Students whose parents are not in the Foreign Service are eligible to participate if they are in grades nine through twelve in any of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. territories, or if they are U.S. citizens/lawful permanent residents attending high school overseas. Students may be attending a public, private, or parochial school. Entries from home-schooled students are also accepted. Previous first-place winners and immediate relatives of directors or staff of the AFSA, the U.S. Institute of Peace, Semester at Sea, or National Student Leadership Conference are not eligible to participate. Previous honorable mention designees are eligible to enter.

**Prizes:** \$2,500 to the writer of the winning essay, in addition to an all-expense-paid trip to the nation's capital from anywhere in the United States for the winner and his or her parents, as well as an all-expense paid educational voyage courtesy of Semester at Sea. The runner-up receives \$1,250 and full tuition to attend a summer session of National Student Leadership Conference's International Diplomacy program. Sponsors will consult with the winners on travel-based prizes to account for COVID-19 restrictions. Your essay will become the property of the American Foreign Service Association once it is submitted and will not be returned.

***Thank you for your essay submission and good luck!***

**PRIVACY POLICY:** AFSA collects your information for this contest and for AFSA partners. You may be signed up to receive updates or information from AFSA and our partners. You may receive a message from our sponsor regarding their program offerings, with the option to opt-out. You will be notified if you are the winner or an honorable mention in June 2022. The names of winners and honorable mentions will be posted on the AFSA website in June 2022.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

"About the U.S. Department of State." U.S. Department of State, 9 Sept. 2021, <https://www.state.gov/about/>.

Adams-Smith, Kelly. "Which Career Track is Right for Me?" Inside a U.S. Embassy. Edited by Shawn Dorman. Washington, DC: American Foreign Service Association, 2014. 215-220.

Blaine, Tegan. "Climate Change Risks New Violent Conflict. How to Respond?" Analysis and Commentary, U.S. Institute of Peace, 20 Sept. 2021, <https://www.usip.org/publications/2021/07/climate-change-risks-new-violent-conflict-how-respond>.

Cole, Beth and Carla Koppell. "Fostering Diplomatic-Defense-Development (3D) Cooperation in Responding to Complex Crises." Peace Brief, U.S. Institute of Peace, 20 Sept. 2021, <https://www.usip.org/publications/2017/12/fostering-diplomatic-defense-development-3d-cooperation-responding-complex>.

"Conflict Prevention and Fragility Working Group." U.S. Institute of Peace, 20 Sept. 2021, <https://www.usip.org/programs/conflict-prevention-and-fragility-working-group>.

"Diplomatic Dictionary." Discover Diplomacy, National Museum of American Diplomacy at the U.S. State Department, 20 Sept. 2021, <https://diplomacy.state.gov/discover-diplomacy/diplomatic-dictionary/>.

Graff, Corinne and Tyler Beckelman. "Five Key Considerations to Make the U.S. Global Fragility Act Work." Analysis and Commentary, U.S. Institute of Peace, 19 Sept. 2021, <https://www.usip.org/publications/2021/07/five-key-considerations-make-us-global-fragility-strategy-work>.

Papouliidis, Jonathan, Corinne Graff and Tyler Beckelman. "Amid COVID, We Need Advanced International Coordination to Build Peace." Analysis and Commentary, U.S. Institute of Peace, 19 Sept. 2021, <https://www.usip.org/publications/2021/07/five-key-considerations-make-us-global-fragility-strategy-work>.

"Peace Terms: Glossary of Terms for Conflict Management and Peacebuilding." 2nd ed., edited by Dan Snodderly. Washington, DC: U.S. Institute of Peace, 2018. Print.

"Peacebuilding Toolkit for Educators – High School Edition." Edited by Alison Milofsky. Washington, DC: U.S. Institute of Peace, 2011. 47-48. [https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/GPC\\_EducatorToolkit-%28HighSchool%29\\_combined.pdf](https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/GPC_EducatorToolkit-%28HighSchool%29_combined.pdf).

Sany, Joseph, and Thomas Sheehy. "Sidestepping Great Power Rivalry: U.S.-China Competition in Africa." Analysis and Commentary, U.S. Institute of Peace, 20 Sept. 2021, <https://www.usip.org/publications/2021/04/sidestepping-great-power-rivalry-us-china-competition-africa>.

Staats, Jennifer and Brian Harding. "Climate, COVID, and China Drive U.S.-Pacific Islands Engagement." Analysis and Commentary, U.S. Institute of Peace, 19 Sept. 2021, <https://www.usip.org/publications/2021/07/five-key-considerations-make-us-global-fragility-strategy-work>.

"What Are the Key Policies of the U.S. State Department?" Discover Diplomacy, National Museum of American Diplomacy at the U.S. State Department, 2 Sept. 2020, <https://diplomacy.state.gov/diplomacy/what-are-the-key-policies-of-the-u-s-department-of-state/>.

Yacoubian, Mona. "The Best Hope for Sustained De-escalation in Syria." Analysis and Commentary, U.S. Institute of Peace, 18 Sept. 2021, <https://www.usip.org/publications/2021/04/sidestepping-great-power-rivalry-us-china-competition-africa>.

## ABOUT THE SPONSORS



**The American Foreign Service Association** (AFSA), established in 1924, is the professional association and labor union of the United States Foreign Service. With close to 17,000 dues-paying members, AFSA represents more than 31,000 active and retired Foreign Service employees of the Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), Foreign Commercial Service (FCS), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM). Learn more at [www.afsa.org](http://www.afsa.org).



**The United States Institute of Peace** is a national, nonpartisan, independent institute, founded by Congress and dedicated to the proposition that a world without violent conflict is possible, practical, and essential for U.S. and global security. In conflict zones abroad, the Institute works with local partners to prevent, mitigate, and resolve violent conflict. To reduce future crises and the need for costly interventions, USIP works with governments and civil societies to build local capacities to manage conflict peacefully. The Institute pursues its mission by linking research, policy, training, analysis, and direct action to support those who are working to build a more peaceful, inclusive world. Learn more at [www.usip.org](http://www.usip.org).



**SEMESTER AT SEA®**

**Semester at Sea** is a multiple country study abroad program open to students of all majors emphasizing comparative academic examination, hands-on field experiences, and meaningful engagement in the global community. A wide variety of coursework from 20-25 disciplines is integrated with relevant field studies in up to a dozen countries, allowing for a comparative study abroad experience that is truly global. Colorado State University is the program's academic partner. Learn more at [www.semesteratsea.org](http://www.semesteratsea.org).



Sponsored by the **National Student Leadership Foundation**—a 501(c)3 nonprofit, nonpartisan, education organization, the NSLC provides students with the opportunity to experience life on a college campus; develop essential leadership skills; and explore a future career through exciting simulations, exclusive site visits and interactive meetings with renowned leaders in their chosen field. Learn more at: [www.nsclleaders.org](http://www.nsclleaders.org).

Please note that the following definitions are generally agreed upon at USIP and can be found throughout a variety of USIP materials including the “Peacebuilding Toolkit for Educators” and *Peace Terms: Glossary of Terms in Conflict Management and Peacebuilding*.





UNITED STATES  
INSTITUTE OF PEACE  
*Making Peace Possible*