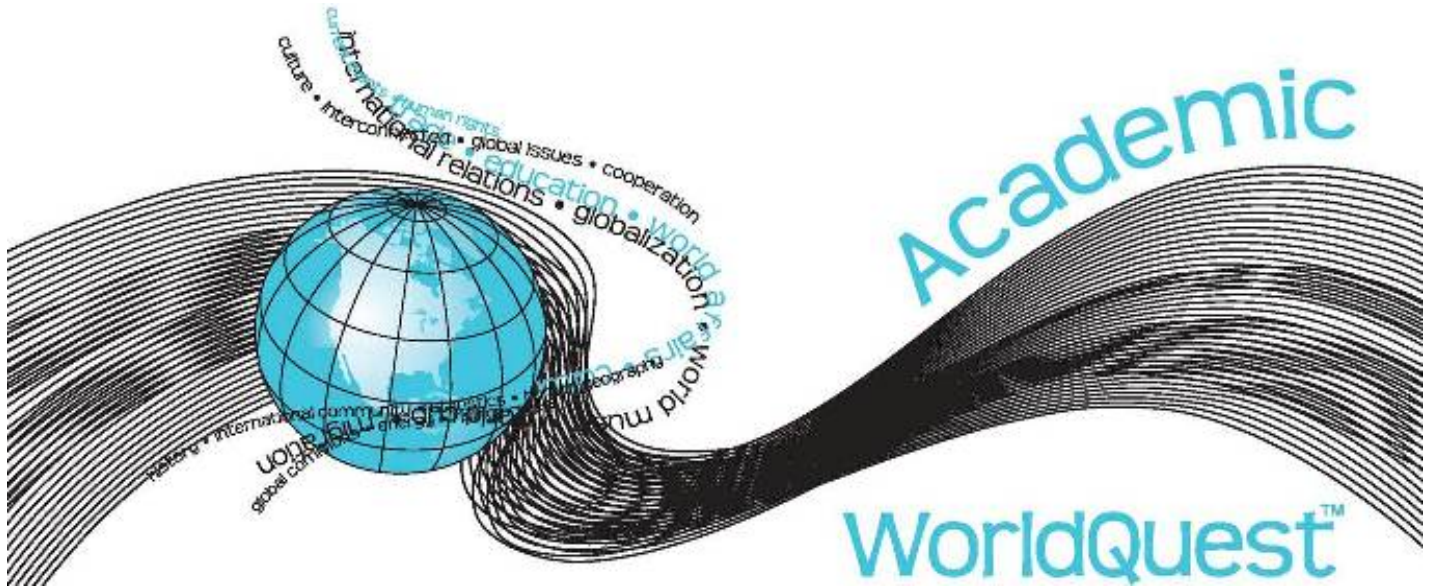




**World Affairs Councils of America**



**2011-2012**

**10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!!**



## **World Affairs Councils of America**

### **2011-2012 Academic WorldQuest Introductory Packet**

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## **World Affairs Councils of America**

### **Welcome to the 2011-2012 Academic WorldQuest™!**

This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Academic WorldQuest™, the flagship education program of the World Affairs Councils of America.

One of the greatest challenges facing our nation and our schools across the country is preparing our youth for the globally interconnected world of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. America's ability to face the economic and security challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and seize new opportunities is dependent on an educated and informed citizenry and workforce. Academic WorldQuest™ is a unique opportunity to expose our youth to the world outside our borders and prepare them for the challenges and the opportunities of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Founded in 2003, the competition is a team game testing high school students' knowledge of international affairs. In the game, four-person teams compete by answering multiple-choice questions divided into ten unique and engaging thematic categories. The winner is the team with the most correct answers.

#### **Structure of Program:**

During the academic year preceding the National Competition in the spring, approximately 3,000 students across the country participate in competitions hosted by over 40 local World Affairs Councils in 26 states.

A study guide is provided with detailed resources on each of the categories to help students and teachers to prepare for the competition. All questions for the competition are drawn from the resources in the study guide.

Winning teams are invited to represent their high school, city, and local council at the National Competition, held in the spring each year in our nation's capitol, Washington, DC. This special weekend includes the competition as well as substantive programming planned to enhance the global education experience.

To find a local competition in your area, contact the World Affairs Councils of America at 202-833-4557 or [waca@worldaffairsCouncils.org](mailto:waca@worldaffairsCouncils.org).



## **World Affairs Councils of America**

### **Academic WorldQuest 2011-2012 Categories**

This year's categories focus on the Six Top National Security Issues facing the United States in the run-up to the 2012 presidential election, as voted on by leaders of World Affairs Councils across the country. These Six Issues are: US Education: Competing Globally; US Energy Policy; US Economic Competitiveness; the Middle East; Afghanistan/Pakistan; and China. We are also including: NATO, in recognition of the 2012 Summit taking place in Chicago; UN Millennium Goals: Child Health, as part of our yearly selection from the Millennium Goals leading up to 2015; Azerbaijan, a country at the nexus of Asia and the Middle East in the Caucus Region; and Current Events, a yearly category.

**US Education: Competing Globally**

**US Energy Policy**

**US Economic Competitiveness**

**Middle East**

**Afghanistan/Pakistan**

**China**

**NATO**

**UN Millennium Goals: Child Health**

**Azerbaijan**

**Current Events**

#### **Study Guide**

A study guide is provided on page 5 by the World Affairs Councils of America with detailed resources on each of these categories. All questions for the competition are drawn from the resources in this study guide.



## **World Affairs Councils of America**

### **National Competition Details**

**Date:**

April 21, 2012

**Location:**

Georgetown University Hotel and Conference Center  
3800 Reservoir Road Northwest, Washington D.C.

Located in a beautiful and historic waterfront DC neighborhood, Georgetown University is one of the world's leading academic and research institutions, offering a unique educational experience that prepares the next generation of global citizens to lead and make a difference in the world.

**Event Details:**

The national Academic WorldQuest competition is attended by more than 225 of the nation's most promising students, along with their parents, teachers, and chaperones. The 3-hour competition is a unique opportunity for many students to visit the nation's capital for the first time. There is a weekend of substantive programming to enhance the experience.

**Examples of Past National Competition Weekend Activities:**

- Embassy Receptions
- Speeches by ambassadors
- Discussions with experts of competition topics
- Panel discussions with university faculty about careers in international relations.
- Performance by African Dance troupe and other cultural activities
- Opportunities to socialize with students from across the country and international students who are invited as special guests to the competition



## World Affairs Councils of America

### Qualifying for National Academic WorldQuest™

#### Rules and Regulations

All teams who compete in the National Competition must win a local competition sponsored by a member organization of the World Affairs Councils of America.

A team consists of four (4) Primary Teammates who are currently high school students (freshman - senior year). No more than four players per team will be able to compete in the National Competition.

Teams may designate Alternate Teammates to replace one or more of the four Primary Teammates in the case of sickness or other circumstances which would prevent one of the four Primary Teammates from competing in the National Competition. Please note that local Councils may be unable to send Alternate Teammates to the National Competition.

Once the National Competition has begun, no substitutions of Alternate Teammates may be made.

Teams of less than four are allowed to compete, but strongly discouraged.

If the winning team from a local competition is unable to compete in the National Competition and has no Alternate Teammates, the second place team may compete in its place.

Teams may only compete in only one (1) local competition in order to qualify to compete in the National Competition.

Rules for local competitions can vary, so please check with your local council to confirm the structure of its competition.





## World Affairs Councils of America

### Academic WorldQuest 2011-2012 Study Guide

This year's categories focus on the Six Top National Security Issues facing the United States in the run-up to the 2012 presidential election, voted on and chosen by the leaders of World Affairs Councils across the country, as well as four other pertinent topics. The categories are: U.S. Education: Competing Globally, U.S. Energy Policy, U.S. Economic Competitiveness, The Middle East, Afghanistan/Pakistan, China, NATO, UN Millennium Goals: Child Health, Azerbaijan, and Current Events.

**Please note: All questions will be drawn from the sources in this Study Guide.**

**This study guide is best viewed in a current version of Adobe Reader. If you are having trouble clicking any of the below links, cut and paste them into your browser.**

Sample questions from past competitions are available at  
<http://www.worldaffairscouncils.org>

#### **U.S. Education: Competing Globally**

One of the Six Top National Security Issues facing the United States in the run-up to the 2012 presidential election, as voted on by leaders of World Affairs Councils across the country, this category focuses on the future of American education. Recent international surveys indicate that American students' educational performance has declined relative to their foreign counterparts. To remain competitive, the country must reassess the way it is educating the next generation of Americans, particularly in STEM subjects-Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

- The White House
  - Read through *Educate to Innovate*:  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/education/educate-innovate>
  - Read the Introduction and Chapter 1 and 2 of *Prepare and Inspire: K-12 Education in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) for America's Future*  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/pcast-stemed-report.pdf>
- National Academy of Sciences
  - Read the Executive Summary and Chapter 3 of *Rising Above the Gathering Storm: Energizing and Employing America for a Brighter Economic Future*:  
[http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=11463](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=11463)
- Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills
  - Read pages 1-10 of *Education & Competitiveness: A Resource and Policy Guide*:  
[http://www.p21.org/documents/21st\\_century\\_skills\\_education\\_and\\_competitiveness\\_guide.pdf](http://www.p21.org/documents/21st_century_skills_education_and_competitiveness_guide.pdf)
- Commerce Department
  - Read *STEM: Good Jobs Now and for the Future*:



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[http://www.esa.doc.gov/sites/default/files/reports/documents/stemfinaljuly14\\_1.pdf](http://www.esa.doc.gov/sites/default/files/reports/documents/stemfinaljuly14_1.pdf)

- Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills
  - Read pages 4-11 of *21st Century Knowledge and Skills in Educator Preparation*  
[http://www.p21.org/documents/aacte\\_p21\\_whitepaper2010.pdf](http://www.p21.org/documents/aacte_p21_whitepaper2010.pdf)
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)
  - Read Chapter 2 of *Lessons from PISA for the United States*  
<http://www.pisa.oecd.org/dataoecd/32/50/46623978.pdf>
- American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME)
  - Read *The Rise of One World Trade Center*:  
<http://www.asme.org/kb/news---articles/articles/construction-and-building/the-rise-of-one-world-trade-center>
- American Chemical Society's ChemMatters
  - Read *Whose Air is It Anyway?:*  
[http://portal.acs.org/portal/PublicWebSite/education/resources/highschool/chemmatters/CTP\\_005392](http://portal.acs.org/portal/PublicWebSite/education/resources/highschool/chemmatters/CTP_005392)

### U.S. Energy Policy

One of the Six Top National Security Issues facing the United States in the run-up to the 2012 presidential election, as voted on by leaders of World Affairs Councils across the country, this category will address the challenges and potential opportunities for US energy usage into the near and long-term future.

- Energy Information Agency
  - Review the overview of each source of energy listed on the left-hand side under the "Energy Sources" tab:  
[http://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/index.cfm?page=heating\\_oil\\_home](http://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/index.cfm?page=heating_oil_home)
- The Pew Charitable Trusts
  - Read the Executive Summary, Key Findings, and Who's Winning the Clean Energy Race? (pages 1-16) in *Who's Winning the Clean Energy Race?:*  
<http://www.pewenvironment.org/uploadedFiles/PEG/Publications/Report/G-20Report-LOWRes-FINAL.pdf>
- International Energy Agency
  - Read the Summary and Introduction in *Are We Entering a Golden Age of Gas? Special Report* (pages 7-11):  
[http://www.iea.org/weo/docs/weo2011/WEO2011\\_GoldenAgeofGasReport.pdf](http://www.iea.org/weo/docs/weo2011/WEO2011_GoldenAgeofGasReport.pdf)
- Council on Foreign Relations
  - Review *Nuclear Energy Guide*. Go through the Overview, Timeline, A World View, Expert Analysis, and The Future. Be sure to click on all of the links within each section:  
[http://www.cfr.org/interactives/IG\\_Nuclear/index.html](http://www.cfr.org/interactives/IG_Nuclear/index.html)
  - Read *Expert Roundup: The US Energy Challenge*  
<http://www.cfr.org/energy/us-energy-challenge/p25485>



## World Affairs Councils of America

- Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
  - Read Steven Chu's testimony:  
[http://energy.senate.gov/public/\\_files/SecChuTestimony02162011.pdf](http://energy.senate.gov/public/_files/SecChuTestimony02162011.pdf)

### U.S. Economic Competitiveness

One of the Six Top National Security Issues facing the United States in the run-up to the 2012 presidential election, as voted on by leaders of World Affairs Councils across the country, this category will discuss the relative economic power held by the United States in the wake of the recent economic crisis and what the US needs to do to remain competitive.

- White House
  - Read the Executive Summary of the Administration's *Strategy for American Innovation*:  
<http://www.slideshare.net/whitehouse/a-strategy-for-american-innovation-executive-summary>
- World Economic Forum
  - Read Chapter 1.1 (pages 3-42 as numbered by the pdf's page counter) of the *Global Competitiveness Report 2010-2011*:  
[http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_GlobalCompetitivenessReport\\_2010-11.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GlobalCompetitivenessReport_2010-11.pdf)
- Council on Foreign Relations
  - Read *Infrastructure Investment and U.S. Competitiveness*, including all of the experts' opinions:  
<http://www.cfr.org/united-states/infrastructure-investment-us-competitiveness/p24585>
  - Read *The Budget Deficit and U.S. Competitiveness*:  
<http://www.cfr.org/economics/budget-deficit-us-competitiveness/p24910>
  - Read *U.S. Debt Ceiling: Costs and Consequences*:  
<http://www.cfr.org/international-finance/us-debt-ceiling-costs-consequences/p24751>
- US Department of Commerce:
  - Read *Competing - and Winning - in a Global Economy*:  
<http://www.manufacturing.gov/report/competing.pdf>
- National Academy of Sciences
  - Read Chapter 2 of *Rising Above the Gathering Storm: Energizing and Employing America for a Brighter Economic Future*:  
[http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=11463](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=11463)
- Foreign Policy Association *Great Decisions*
  - Read *Banks, Governments and Debt Crises* pages 49-60
  - Read *Germany's Ascendancy* pages 61-72

### Middle East

One of the Six Top National Security Issues facing the United States in the run-up to the 2012 presidential election, as voted on by leaders of World Affairs Councils across the country, this category will provide an overview of the strategically significant region with special regard to recent momentous events.



## World Affairs Councils of America

- Council on Foreign Relations
  - Read *Mounting Pressure in Arab Uprisings* :  
<http://www.cfr.org/middle-east/mounting-pressure-arab-uprisings/p25143>
  - Read *Gauging Obama's Mideast Policy Speech*:  
<http://www.cfr.org/middle-east/gauging-obamas-mideast-policy-speech/p25043>
  - Read *The Arab Spring Has Given Way to a Long, Hot Summer*:  
<http://www.cfr.org/middle-east/arab-spring-has-given-way-long-hot-summer/p25426>
- G8 Summit
  - Read the *Declaration of the G8 on the Arab Spring*:  
<http://www.g20-g8.com/g8-g20/g8/english/live/news/declaration-of-the-g8-on-the-arab-springs.1316.html>
- State Dept
  - Read the DipNote Blog: President Obama Delivers Remarks on Events in the Middle East and North Africa, Introductory Remarks by Secretary Clinton, and all Fact Sheets:  
<http://www.state.gov/p/nea/c45043.htm>
  - Country Reports on Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Lebanon:  
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/index.htm>

### Afghanistan/Pakistan

One of the Six Top National Security Issues facing the United States in the run-up to the 2012 presidential election, as voted on by leaders of World Affairs Councils across the country, this section will cover current political, economic, and cultural events in Afghanistan and Pakistan, particularly how the U.S.'s future relationship with both countries will be determined by present events such as the Arab Spring, the discovery of Osama bin Laden, and eventual U.S. troop withdrawal from both countries within the next few years.

- World Affairs Councils of America -- Go to the Virtual Library and watch the videos if indicated or read the provided transcripts from the following events, listed under "Latest from the Capital"  
[http://www.worldaffairsCouncils.org/2011/main/home.cfm?Database=virtual\\_library&Category=Main&Section=Main](http://www.worldaffairsCouncils.org/2011/main/home.cfm?Database=virtual_library&Category=Main&Section=Main)
  - Presidential Address on Troop Levels in Afghanistan 6/22/11—watch video
  - Senate Foreign Relations Committee: Evaluating Goals and Progress in Afghanistan and Pakistan 6/23/11—watch video
  - Senate Foreign Relations Committee: Steps needed for a Successful 2014 Transition in Afghanistan 5/10/11- watch video
- Senate Committee on Foreign Relations:
  - Read the testimonies of the speakers:  
<http://foreign.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=50dda323-5056-a032-522f-1577e3361280>
  - Read John Kerry's statement:  
<http://foreign.senate.gov/press/chair/release/?id=1891de68-1024-4a2e-bf72-9c23ed71df16>
  - Read Executive Summary of Senate Committee on Foreign Relations' *Evaluating U.S. Foreign Assistance to Afghanistan* report:  
<http://reliefweb.int/node/406742>



## World Affairs Councils of America

- Read the transcript of the hearing *Assessing U.S. Policy and its Limits in Pakistan* 5/5/11  
<http://www.hsdl.org/?view&doc=142167&coll=limited>
- Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)
  - Read *The Afghan War and the Problem of Pakistan*:  
<http://csis.org/publication/afghan-war-and-problem-pakistan>
  - Read slides 1-18 of the *The Problem of Pakistan* presentation:  
[http://csis.org/files/publication/110607\\_Pakistan-Cordesman.pdf](http://csis.org/files/publication/110607_Pakistan-Cordesman.pdf)
- United States Institute of Peace
  - Read *The Future of Pakistan*:  
[http://www.usip.org/files/resources/The\\_Future\\_%20of\\_Pakistan.pdf](http://www.usip.org/files/resources/The_Future_%20of_Pakistan.pdf)
- Congressional Research Service
  - Read *Pakistan's Nuclear Weapons: Proliferation and Security Issues*:  
<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/169328.pdf>
- Council on Foreign Relations
  - Read *U.S. Strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan*:  
[http://i.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/Pakistan\\_Afghanistan\\_TFR65.pdf](http://i.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/Pakistan_Afghanistan_TFR65.pdf)

## China

One of the Six Top National Security Issues facing the United States in the run-up to the 2012 presidential election, as voted on by leaders of World Affairs Councils across the country, this section will provide an overview of this growing economic, political and military power.

- Council on Foreign Relations
  - Read *Asia's New Growth Model*:  
<http://www.cfr.org/economic-development/asias-new-growth-model/p25172>
  - Read *Who Will Win as China's Economy Changes?*  
<http://blogs.cfr.org/asia/2011/07/24/who-will-win-as-china%E2%80%99s-economy-changes/>
- The Atlantic Magazine
  - Read *The Next Empire*:  
<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2010/05/the-next-empire/8018/>
- United States Department of State
  - Read *Background Notes on China*:  
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/18902.htm>
  - Watch and read the transcript of Secretary Clinton's speech  
<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2011/07/168936.htm>
  - Read *A Journey Shared: The United States and China* 's Introduction; Script of the DVD; Timeline: Beginnings; Timeline: Open Door to the End of a Dynasty; Timeline: The Republic of China to World War II; Timeline: The Cold War in Asia; Timeline: The Opening to China Through Tiananmen Square; 20<sup>th</sup> Century Relations, 1949-2000: Chinese Americans After the End of Exclusion; Origins to the End of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century: Chinese Subjects in the United States; Confucius: A Chinese Thinker and Philosopher; From the Open Door to the Chinese Civil War: Diplomacy and Trade From the Open Door to 1937; Origins to the End of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century: Early Diplomatic Contact; 20<sup>th</sup> Century Relations, 1949-2000: After the Opening: Educational and Cultural Relations;



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From the Open Door to the Chinese Civil War: Learning About China; Origins to the End of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century: U.S. Merchants Look to China; From the Open Door to the Chinese Civil War: Military and Wartime Relations; Origins to the End of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century: American Missionaries in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century; 20<sup>th</sup> Century Relations, 1949-2000: Modern Diplomacy; From the Open Door to the Chinese Civil War: Political Change in China; From the Open Door to the Chinese Civil War: Religious and Educational Contacts; From the Open Door to the Chinese Civil War: The Chinese in America; 20<sup>th</sup> Century Relations, 1949 -2000: After the Opening: Trade and Technology; 20<sup>th</sup> Century Relations, 1949-2000: From World War to Cold War;

<http://static.history.state.gov/edu-modules/journey-shared.pdf>

- Congressional Research Service
  - Read the whole *China-U.S. Trade Issues* report  
<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/166797.pdf>
  - Read *China Naval Modernization: Implications for U.S. Navy Capabilities—Background and Issues for Congress* Summary, Issues for Congress, Background (pages 2-8), Comparing US and Chinese Naval Capabilities, Potential Oversight Issues for Congress (pages 46-50), Appendix A: China’s Maritime Territorial Claims and Position Regarding Operations in EEZ  
<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/156520.pdf>
- Foreign Policy Association *Great Decisions*:
  - Read *Sanctions and Nonproliferation*, pages 73-86

## NATO

This summer, the US will be hosting the 2012 NATO summit in Chicago. Overall, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization possibly faces a historic turning point as a result of engagements in Libya and a changing global landscape.

- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
  - Read the text of the *North Atlantic Treaty*:  
[http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/official\\_texts\\_17120.htm](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/official_texts_17120.htm)
  - Review *Discover NATO*. Go through the interactive presentation for Basics, Activities, and Dynamics. Be sure to move your mouse over all of the question marks and listen to all of the audio and video components within the presentation:  
[http://www.nato.int/cps/en/SID-D37BC814-6673563D/natolive/what\\_is\\_nato.htm](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/SID-D37BC814-6673563D/natolive/what_is_nato.htm)
- Council on Foreign Relations
  - Read the summary article *NATO Strategic Concept, 2010* and then download and read the pdf at the bottom entitled *NATO Strategic Concept, 2010*:  
<http://www.cfr.org/nato/nato-strategic-concept-2010/p24227>
  - Download the pdf and read *The Future of NATO*, pages 3-23:  
<http://www.cfr.org/nato/future-nato/p21044>
- The Atlantic Council
  - Read *Gates: A Two Tiered Alliance with a Dim, Dismal Future*:  
[http://www.acus.org/new\\_atlanticist/gates-nato-two-tiered-alliance-dim-dismal-future](http://www.acus.org/new_atlanticist/gates-nato-two-tiered-alliance-dim-dismal-future)
  - Download the pdf and read the Executive Summary, Chapters 1-4, and the Conclusion of *Alliance Reborn: An Atlantic Compact for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*:  
<http://www.acus.org/publication/alliance-reborn-atlantic-compact-21st-century>



## World Affairs Councils of America

- The World Affairs Council of America and The World Affairs Council of Atlanta
  - Read *NATO: Preserving Unity Through Solidarity*:  
[http://www.worldaffairsCouncils.org/images/insert/NATO\\_SG\\_Rasmussen\\_Address\\_to\\_the\\_World\\_Affairs\\_Council\\_of\\_Atlanta.pdf](http://www.worldaffairsCouncils.org/images/insert/NATO_SG_Rasmussen_Address_to_the_World_Affairs_Council_of_Atlanta.pdf)

### UN Millennium Goals: Child Health

Each year until 2015, AWQ will feature one United Nations Development Goal. This year's topic will address the United Nations Development Goal #4: Reduce Child Mortality.

- United Nations (UN)
  - Read The Millennium Development Goal Report:  
[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2010/2010\\_Adendum\\_Goal4.pdf](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2010/2010_Adendum_Goal4.pdf)
  - Read fact sheet, pages 1-2:  
[http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/MDG\\_FS\\_4\\_EN.pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/MDG_FS_4_EN.pdf)
- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
  - Click on each of the bullets to see the progress in each of the sub-goals in improving child health:  
[http://www.unicef.org/progressforchildren/2007n6/index\\_41799.htm](http://www.unicef.org/progressforchildren/2007n6/index_41799.htm)
  - On the sidebar click each of the labels to learn about the greatest health risks to children under 5 and at the bottom click on Main Menu and then explore each tab of wheels entitled Causes, Countdown, and Action:  
<http://www.unicef.org/mdg/mortalitymultimedia/index.html>
- World Bank
  - Read *Learning from Maternal and Child Health Successes in Africa*:  
<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/AFRICAEXT/0,,contentMDK:22658551-pagePK:146736-piPK:146830-theSitePK:258644,00.html>
- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
  - Read *Progress Toward Maternal, Newborn, & Child Health*:  
<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/livingproofproject/Documents/progress-towards-maternal-newborn-child-health.pdf>
  - Read *Strategy Overview: Maternal, Newborn, & Child Health*:  
<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/global-health/Documents/maternal-neonatal-strategy.pdf>
  - Watch *Impatient Optimists: Mother, Child Health*:  
<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/livingproofproject/Pages/video-gallery.aspx#video=/livingproofproject/Pages/impatient-optimists-speech-maternal-newborn-health.aspx&pager=1>

### Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan is a country at the nexus point of the Middle East, Asia, and Europe. Historically, the country has always been a middleman for the East and West-- in ancient and medieval times it was a central point along the Silk Road and today its strategic placement keeps it a focal point for commercial and energy policies and regional and global geopolitics. The World Affairs Councils of America conducted a Leadership Mission to Azerbaijan in spring 2011.



## World Affairs Councils of America

- State Department
  - Read the State Department's Background Notes on the Republic of Azerbaijan:  
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2909.htm>
- Washington Post
  - Read *Azerbaijan wavers between East and West*:  
[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/azerbaijan-wavers-between-east-and-west/2011/06/03/AGmdvgRH\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/azerbaijan-wavers-between-east-and-west/2011/06/03/AGmdvgRH_story.html)
- Youtube-Discovery Channel's *Build it Bigger*:
  - Watch until 4:25  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9gl0q\\_Didvo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9gl0q_Didvo)
- Smithsonian Institute
  - Under the left-hand side bar, read *Azerbaijan* under *Site Overviews*, *Azerbaijan* under *Cultural History* (including each period linked), and each subcategory under *Shared Heritage*  
<http://agt.si.edu/>
- Foreign Policy Association *Great Decisions*:
  - Read *The Caucasus* pages 87-100

### Current Events

This round will consist of questions on world news and world events happening in early 2012. This year, there will be a focus on the history of the Olympics to prepare for the 2012 London Games.

In general, for the questions and world events, we recommend reading a reputable national news source. Many news sources can be obtained free through their websites

For the questions on the Olympics:

- Council on Foreign Relations
  - Read *Politics and the Olympics: A Slideshow*:  
<http://www.cfr.org/world/politics-olympics/p16366>
- London 2012
  - Read about the 26 sports which will be feature at the 2012 Olympics:  
<http://www.london2012.com/sport>
  - Read *Torch History*:  
<http://www.london2012.com/games/olympic-torch-relay/history/>
  - Read Games Heritage: *Olympic Heritage* and *Paralympics Heritage* :  
<http://www.london2012.com/games-heritage>
- US Dept of State
  - Read Pages 1-19 of *Sports and Diplomacy in the Global Arena*:  
<http://static.history.state.gov/edu-modules/sports.pdf>