

# Hey all you, Global Citizens!

My name is Ms. Norman and I will be your teacher for the upcoming year! Our I.B. Global Politics course will be designed to push your thinking about many global issues. We will be evaluating, analyzing, and discussing these complex issues as well as their wider-world impact. Our units will include...

1. Power, Sovereignty and International Relationships
2. Human Rights
3. Development
4. Peace and Conflict

Throughout the year, you will have the opportunity to engage in real-world conversations and pursue an active role in global citizenship. To prepare for that, you will be completing two summer assignments. The details are below and on this PDF.



**YOUR 1st TASK:** Identify one global and current political issue that you are interested in learning more about. It must deal with one of the key concepts listed below, and have occurred from the last 10 years to now...

For our class purposes, a political issue is any question that deals with how power is distributed and how power operates within social organizations. This includes how people think about and engage with their communities and the wider-world.

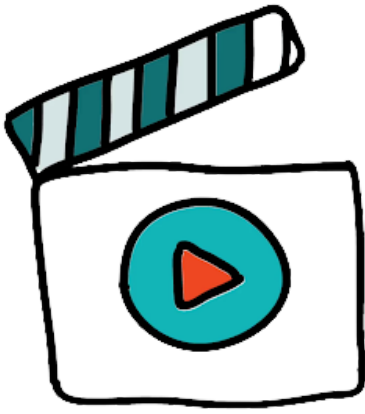
While you are looking for a global issue, you may not use something happening within the United States. However, the U.S. may be involved with the event you choose.

You will be writing a one-page reflection that includes the following:

1. Conduct some research on this issue. In your own words, please summarize this political issue. Why is this a global issue? Who does it impact?
2. Locate two different news articles from two different sources about the current event you have chosen.
3. Analyze the articles you chose. Identify and explain if there is any bias or point of view present. What makes this credible or not? Is the country in which the article is written somehow involved in the event?
4. Take a position on the event or issue. What is your opinion and why? Support your position with evidence from at least one article. You may consider including counterpoints.
5. Relate your event to one of the key concepts that we will be examining in our course. Explain this concept and how your event connects to these themes we will be learning about this year.

The key concepts are on the next page. Remember, you are only choosing one and your current event must relate to one of these topics.

Key Concept:	Global Politics Definition:
<b>Power</b>	<u><b>Power</b></u> is a central concept in the study of global politics and a key focus of the course. Power can be seen as the ability to effect change and, rather than being viewed as a unitary or independent force, is as an aspect of relations among people functioning within a social organization. Contested relationships between people and groups of people dominate politics, particularly in this era of increased globalization, and so understanding the dynamics of power plays a prominent role in understanding global politics.
<b>Sovereignty</b>	<u><b>Sovereignty</b></u> characterizes a state's independence, its control over territory and its ability to govern itself. How states use their sovereign power is at the heart of many important issues in global politics. Some theorists argue that sovereign power is increasingly being eroded by aspects of globalization such as global communication and trade, which states cannot always fully control. Others argue that sovereign states exercise a great deal of power when acting in their national interest and that this is unlikely to change.
<b>Interdependence</b>	In global politics, the concept of <u><b>interdependence</b></u> most often refers to the mutual reliance between and among groups, organizations, geographic areas and or states for access to resources that sustain living arrangements. Often, this mutual reliance is economic (such as trade), but can also have a security dimension (such as defense arrangements) and, increasingly, a sustainability dimension (such as environmental treaties). Globalization has increased interdependence, while often changing the relationships of power among the various actors engaged in global politics.
<b>Human Rights</b>	<u><b>Human rights</b></u> are basic claims and entitlements that, many argue, one should be able to exercise simply by virtue of being a human being. Many contemporary thinkers argue they are essential for living a life of dignity, are inalienable, and should be accepted as universal. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the UN in 1948 is recognized as the beginning of the formal discussion of human rights around the world. Critics argue that human rights are a Western, or at least culturally relative, concept.
<b>Development</b>	<u><b>Development</b></u> is a sustained increase in the standard of living and well-being of a level of social organization. Many consider it to involve better access to basic goods and services; increased income; improvements in education, healthcare and public health; well-functioning institutions; decreased inequality; reduced poverty and unemployment; and more sustainable production and consumption patterns. The focus of development debates in contemporary global politics is on issues faced by developing countries, and on the imperative of shifting the focus from modernization (seen as Westernization). However, all societies and communities face questions about how to best promote well-being and reduce ill-being.
<b>Globalization</b>	<u><b>Globalization</b></u> is a process by which the world's local, national and regional economies, societies and cultures are becoming increasingly integrated and connected. The term refers to the reduction of barriers and borders, as people, goods, services and ideas flow more freely between different parts of the world. Globalization is a process that has been taking place for centuries but the pace has quickened in recent decades, facilitated by developments in transportation and communication technology, and powered by cheap energy. It is now widely acknowledged that globalization has both benefits and drawbacks and that its benefits are not evenly distributed.



**YOUR 2nd TASK:** Then, you will be creating a 2-3 minute video that answers three questions.

1. What is Global Politics?
2. What does it mean to be a global citizen?
3. What do I expect to learn in this course?

You may discuss what you learned in the first activity from your summer assignment if necessary. You do not have to show your face, but I must be able to hear your voice clearly.

Introduce your video with your name. You will format your video in mp4 and drop it into a shared folder on Google Drive.

Be creative, and have fun! The link for the folder when you are ready to upload is below:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UkBYk771oJo3DbhIJ69\\_0kmKotZyUiDe?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UkBYk771oJo3DbhIJ69_0kmKotZyUiDe?usp=sharing)

# Government Organizer

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Government Definition:	How are leaders selected?	Advantages and Disadvantages:	Can Power be Limited? How?	Rights and Freedoms:	Real-World Examples:
<div>Democracy:</div>					
<div>Republic:</div>					
<div>Monarchy:</div>					
<div>Communism:</div>					
<div>Dictatorship:</div>					

<div>Theocracy:</div>					
-----------------------	--	--	--	--	--

Economies Organizer

System Definition:	Role of the Government:	Advantages and Disadvantages:	What is Produced?	How do people get products?	Examples in Practice:
<div>Traditional:</div>					
<div>Command:</div>					
<div>Market:</div>					
<div>Mixed:</div>					

