

Virtual Diplomacy Simulation

U.S. Department of State



National Museum
of American Diplomacy

Three Branches of the U.S. Federal Government



Executive Branch



Legislative Branch



Judicial Branch



The Executive Branch: Led by the President





U.S. Department of State

- The cabinet agency that leads U.S. relations with foreign governments, international organizations and the citizens of other countries.
- Represents the foreign policy of the U.S. President, who is the nation's chief diplomat.



What is Diplomacy?



Diplomacy is the art and practice of building relationships and conducting international relations.

Diplomacy includes negotiating alliances, treaties and agreements, and includes the tact and skill of working with people.



What is a Simulation?

- A collaborative learning experience.
- Participants assume assigned roles, each with distinct perspectives or points of view.
- Participants interact with others in a specific situation or moment in time.
- Participants representing multiple perspectives come together to negotiate a hypothetical or real-world scenario.



Simulation Goals

- Understand the complexity of foreign relations.
- Appreciate the nuances of doing diplomacy.
- Consider what makes an issue a global issue.



Simulations Teach the Skills of Diplomacy

Composure: Professionally present your position and calmly deal with difficult partners.

Awareness: Respect the different cultures and customs represented at the table.

Analysis: Study the situation, research and think critically about what is going on.

Communication: Articulate your position, and listen openly to the other country's positions. Listen for where interests overlap.

Management: Use the skills and strengths of your team members. Know what tools and resources you have at your disposal. Example: staff, money.

Innovation: Observe current conditions and practices and offer creative improvements, solutions and methods to better carry out the mission.

Leadership: Take action and make decisions using what information is available. Keep the big picture in mind.

Collaboration: Incorporate the ideas of others and find common ground.

Advocacy: Uphold and advance U.S. interests in all aspects of diplomatic work.



What You Need to Virtually Bring Simulations to Life

- Interactive/Video platform with chat room function
- Simulations are designed for 15-30 participants;
- Five to Six stakeholder groups, each with a different point of view; Divide stakeholder groups ahead of time;
- One facilitator or host
- 90 minutes - 2 hour block of time;
- Materials: downloaded or printed for easy reference!
 - include a scenario and stakeholder profiles, worksheets and a map.

Structure - Moves are Held in Breakout Rooms

- **Formal Meeting Room:** Main meeting in Zoom.
- **Stakeholder Meeting Room:** Team chat room.
- **Negotiating Meeting Rooms:** Representatives from each stakeholder group in assigned chat rooms.



Facilitator will Guide Stakeholder Groups

- **Prioritize possible actions** according to your position, needs, and wants.
- **Select a spokesperson** who will deliver a 1-minute opening statement explaining your position.
- **Negotiate with other groups** to find solutions to the problem.
- **Prepare to form alliances** among groups to create progress.



Facilitator will Guide Stakeholder Groups to Determine:

Action: What is your priority action?

Resources: What do you need to accomplish this action? Money?
Human resources? Supplies?

Partners: What other stakeholder needs to help you?

Timeline: When can/should this action commence?



Negotiation Tips

- **Know your strengths and weaknesses:** Be clear on what you bring to the table. Know and implement incentives and disincentives (the carrot and the stick).
- **Know your friends and your adversaries:** Use your relationships to help you.
- **Know all the options:** Weigh different perspectives.
- **Know all the angles:** Think strategically.
- **Know when to concede:** Look for common ground. It's OK to give something up.
- **Know your timeframe:** Be sensitive to the point when the situation turns into a crisis.



Agenda

- 15 minutes: Formal Meeting Room: Introduction
- 10 minutes: Stakeholder Meeting Rooms
- 10 minutes: Formal Meeting Room: Opening Statements
- 20 minutes: Negotiating Rooms discussions
- 5 minutes: Brief formal meeting
- 10 minutes: Stakeholder meeting
- 15 minutes: Second formal session
- 10 minutes: Debrief discussion

