

2008 World Affairs Challenge: Program Update – Formal Presentation

For years, the World Affairs Challenge annual theme has guided students in their research, analysis, and preparation for the events of the Challenge day. The theme serves us well, we believe. Nevertheless, there is always room for improvement, and it is to that end that we are communicating some changes in the structure of the 2008 World Affairs Challenge.

For the 2008 Challenge, teachers and their teams will select an area of focus that best represents the content of the students' research and analysis for the *Formal Presentation*. At the end of this note, you will find brief explanations of each focus area, as well as some sample topics. We believe and have purposely structured these areas in such a way that the new format will not limit the vast creativity of the students who participate in the Challenge! In fact, one focus area encourages students to really push the envelope and think outside the box to find what might not be represented in other topic areas.

Please don't let the samples below limit your or your team's possibilities for presentation topics. In fact, we are confident that the students will create presentations based on ideas and issues that are *not* listed below.

How will it work?

Each area of focus will have 6-7 presentation "slots," meaning that 6-7 teams can choose and present in any one area. Teams will be slotted in their choice of area on a first come, first served basis. In the event that no teams select a certain area of focus, that category will be eliminated. In the event that there are more teams interested in an area of focus than the total number of slots available (and we doubt this will be a major issue), CTIR will work with the team to find the best alternate area of focus, or even create an additional one.

You will see some areas of focus that may be used year in and year out (e.g., Compare and Contrast). Others are more specific to the annual theme of Global Health. As you read through the list below, we think you will find that there is also some overlap, so **make your best choice based on your intention** for the presentation: what do you want to be sure the judges know?

Speaking of judges: each area of focus will have **one panel of judges** evaluate all of the presentations in that area. This way we will have a more "apples to apples" approach to scoring that also allows our judges to see several more presentations than under the previous format. Furthermore, because there will be a panel of 7-8 judges for each category, **teams will only present one time**, which is the case for many academic tournaments and indeed any sort of competition...even Olympic athletes only get one chance at the gold in any given event!

At this time, there is no set deadline to select your team's area of focus. **Let us know when you know, and remember that placement is first come, first served.**

CTIR stands ready to assist any team that needs help in choosing the best fit in terms of areas of focus. We know that changes such as these can be challenging. But we truly believe in the creativity and determination of Challenge participants to help us create the best experience possible. It is in that spirit that we thank you and greatly look forward to witnessing the results of these modifications to the World Affairs Challenge program.

Questions?

Contact Liz Beindorff at 303-871-7442 or ebeindor@du.edu.

Contact Jim Kidder at 303-871-2405 or jkidder@du.edu.

Areas of Focus – 2008 World Affairs Challenge

Resources/Access

- *Description:* Presentations in this category will examine various issues related to health resources and how people access them (or can't). Included are education and information, supplies and facilities, political implications, food safety, and much more.
- *Topic examples:*
 - Food and nutrition
 - Non-governmental organizations and their role in improving health (e.g., Médecins sans Frontières, CARE, World Health Organization [WHO], Save the Children, Red Cross)
 - What are the health impacts of natural disasters?
 - How are health needs of refugees met?

Types of Diseases

- *Description:* As suggested by the category name, this group of presentations will focus on specific diseases, their implications, and any other information the team considers relevant. It includes both mental and physical health issues.
- *Topic examples:*
 - Guinea Worm, malaria, avian flu, polio, hepatitis, leprosy, HIV/AIDS, respiratory diseases, diarrheal diseases, tuberculosis (TB), river blindness, Ebola virus, West Nile virus, etc.
 - Depression or other mental illness; how are these handled / treated around the world?
 - Eradicating diseases (e.g., polio, measles, mumps)
 - How are physical/mental disabilities handled and/or treated around the world?

Regional Focus

- *Description:* Presentations in this category will focus on specific global regions such as Asia, West Africa, or Europe, and health. Specific countries like India or Argentina and health would also fall into this category.
- *Topic examples:*
 - Access to medicine in Africa
 - Comparison of health care systems in 2 or more countries
 - China's health care system
 - Health in Iraq (or other war torn areas)

Health care/Systems of Health care

- *Description:* This category's presentations will explore the health care systems for people around the world. Students might also examine the pharmaceutical industry, insurance, food safety, and hospitals/clinics.
- *Topic examples:*
 - Access to medical care
 - How do pharmaceutical companies test their products? How are products distributed?
 - What actions are countries taking to prevent food-borne illnesses?
 - Cloning, genetic engineering, genetically-modified organisms and their implications

Compare & Contrast

- *Description:* This broad category is rather self-explanatory. It encourages teams to look at a subject and compare and contrast the information. It could be a comparison of health care systems, water pollution in various countries, or how different diseases are treated differently by different people.
- *Topic examples:*
 - Compare and contrast health care systems in different countries
 - Compare and contrast how a disease affects people in one place vs. another and the reasons why

- Traditional vs. contemporary (e.g., western, eastern, shamanic, naturopathic, holistic, etc.) medical practices: what are the implications of each?
- Compare and contrast sanitation methods and their effects on health

Water & Health

- *Description:* Water can be the cause / source of disease in many parts of the world, and presentations in this category will reflect research in this broad area.
- *Topic examples:*
 - The relationship between basic resources/services and observed health/illness
 - Drinking water quality; bathing water; water resources and supplies
 - Water supply and sanitation monitoring; wastewater use; water-related diseases
 - How does pollution affect the health of an individual? What are the health impacts of natural disasters?

Health & Human Rights

- *Description:* Presentations in this category will explore how the basic right to health plays out around the world. *Is this indeed a basic human right? What are the consequences to people without adequate healthcare, or for whom curable diseases are a major factor?*
- *Topic examples:*
 - How is health a human right? What does this mean?
 - Indigenous peoples and their medicines/healing traditions; are there conflicts between these and “modern” societies?
 - Access to healthcare as a human right: is it? Does everyone have this right?
 - Pharmaceutical companies’ intellectual property rights vs. human rights of those who would benefit from the companies’ medications

Gender & Health

- *Description:* This category will examine the ways in which biological and social differences between women and men affect health and the steps needed to achieve health equity between the genders. Presentations might also examine reproductive health issues.
- *Topic examples:*
 - The practice/tradition of female genital circumcision (or female genital mutilation)
 - How do women’s reproductive rights and options vary in different parts of the world? Are men affected as well?
 - How does the dissemination of health education and/or practices help or hurt both genders? Their children? What role does religion play?
 - Poverty, unequal power relationships between men and women, lack of education: what effects to these concepts have on women’s or men’s health?

Explore It!

- *Description:* Presentations in this category will cover ideas and topics that are not listed above! This is a chance for students to really think “outside the box” and show the myriad of other ways the **Global Health** theme can take shape. This is really a challenge to students to demonstrate their creativity and their willingness to explore the multifaceted dimensions of **Global Health**.
- *Topic examples:*
 - You tell us!