

Final Paper: Risk Assessment

Course: PLSC 397Z: Applied Skills in Political Science

Instructor: Bidisha Biswas

Your final paper involves the following elements:

- A. Proposal
 - Peer Review of Proposals
- B. Final Paper Draft 1
 - Peer Review of Final Paper Drafts
- C. Final Paper Draft 2
 - Recording

A. **Proposal:** Submit a Proposal including the **actor** and the **geopolitical challenge** that you will write about in your paper. Mention any prior knowledge or exposure you have had to the issue. If this is a brand new topic for you, note that. Discuss, briefly, the resources you are planning to use to research your project.

1. **ACTOR:** Choose an actor that you would like to represent. This actor is considering entry into a country that is provided in the list at the end of the syllabus. An actor could be a private corporation (for example, 3 Lockheed Martin), a human rights organization (for example, Amnesty International), a financial services firm (Citibank), a research organization (for example, Carnegie), a university (for example, New York University) etc. I have provided examples of actors.

Option 1: Corporate Political Risk Analyst

You are a multinational corporate political risk analyst, and your corporation is planning to expand operations in one or more developing nations located in South Asia, Africa, or Latin/South America. Your corporation is not sure where to form joint ventures or locate new manufacturing facilities. They are unsure of the risk involved and options open to them. They request that you perform a political risk analysis of a country. Present them with your analysis and tell them how you made your decision. Is your country an acceptable risk? Why or why not?

Option 2: United Nations Senior Risk Advisor

You work for the United Nations as a senior risk advisor. In the past several years the United Nations has been asked to supply troops to many multinational peacekeeping areas. The UN is trying to look ahead to further understand what areas in the world are potentially high-risk areas where they may need to deploy a multinational peacekeeping force. They ask you and your team to develop a political risk model that allows them to predict risky areas. You have to identify a country that you think is high risk and explain why you think this country is high risk.

Option 3: Foreign Policy and Military Analysis Team

You are a team of U.S. foreign policy or military advisors to the National Security Advisor to the President. In an attempt to develop foreign, defense, and intelligence policies you have been given the task to analyze a particular country's risk to the United States. Risk can mean any number of things, including cyber threats, terrorist attacks, government-to-government tensions and challenges to US business investments overseas, among others. Be specific about the risk you are seeking to address. Based on your analysis, the National Security Council and National Security Advisor can make recommendations to the President that would affect various policies for defense and intelligence spending.

2. **GEOPOLITICAL CHALLENGE:** Next, think of a geopolitical challenge that would expose that actor to risk with relation to its area of interest. An example would be an IT company attempting to enter Pakistan and encountering blasphemy laws that run counter to its work philosophy and business goals. A human rights organization entering India might face significant roadblocks to reporting from insurgency-affected areas, such as the Kashmir Valley.

Provide an assessment of the challenge for the actor. Discuss the pros and cons of entering the market and make a recommendation to the senior leadership of your organization. You must justify your recommended course of action. The assessment should be based on the geopolitical environment of the country of your choice.

- **Peer Review of Proposals:** All students are required to complete the peer review assigned to them within the time stipulated by the instructor, using the following rubric:

Criteria	Ratings	Pts
Clarity of choice in actor	<i>This area will be used by the assessor to leave comments related to this criterion.</i>	1.0 pts
Relevant geopolitical challenge	<i>This area will be used by the assessor to leave comments related to this criterion.</i>	1.0 pts
Prior knowledge	<i>This area will be used by the assessor to leave comments related to this criterion.</i>	1.0 pts
Resources	<i>This area will be used by the assessor to leave comments related to this criterion.</i>	1.0 pts
Careful writing and editing	<i>This area will be used by the assessor to leave comments related to this criterion.</i>	1.0 pts
Total Points: 5.0		

B. **Final Paper Draft 1:** This draft should be a comprehensive analysis of steps 1 and 2 described in the Proposal.

1. **Introduction:** Explain who you are and what the goal of your paper is. (1 paragraph, single spaced, not more than half a page).
2. **Challenge:** Describe, in detail, the geopolitical challenge you are addressing. What is the challenge or challenge(s)? Why are they relevant to you (the actor)? Provide a comprehensive, but concise, discussion of your chosen challenge. (2-3 paragraphs, single paced; not more than 1 page)

Steps 1 and 2 will be incorporated (with appropriate modifications) into Draft 2 and the final submission. The more relevant work you put in now, the less distance you will need to cover later in the term. Plan accordingly.

Steps 3 and 4 are designed to be more reflective. You can be less formal in writing up this section. The suggested lengths are for guidance only. Feel free to write more or less, as is relevant to your paper. Remember to still be clear, specific, and concise.

3. **Explain your methodology.** What sources did you choose to describe the challenge? Why? (1 paragraph)
4. **Explain how you incorporated feedback from your outline.** This should cover both instructor and peer feedback. (1 paragraph)
5. **Explain how you plan to develop your assessment and recommendation.** What challenges do you expect to encounter in your research and writing? (1 paragraph)

- **Peer Review of Final Paper Draft 1:** All students are required to complete the peer review assigned to them within the time stipulated by the instructor, using the following rubric:

Criteria	Ratings	Pts
Clear introduction	<i>This area will be used by the assessor to leave comments related to this criterion.</i>	2.0 pts
Relevant issue	<i>This area will be used by the assessor to leave comments related to this criterion.</i>	1.0 pts
Comprehensive discussion of challenge	<i>This area will be used by the assessor to leave comments related to this criterion.</i>	2.0 pts
Thoughtful reflection, responds to earlier feedback	<i>This area will be used by the assessor to leave comments related to this criterion.</i>	2.0 pts
Carefully edited and proofread	<i>This area will be used by the assessor to leave comments related to this criterion.</i>	2.0 pts
Bibliography	<i>This area will be used by the assessor to leave comments related to this criterion.</i>	1.0 pts
Total Points: 10.0		

C. **Final Paper Draft 2:** This draft should be a near complete version of your final paper. Provide the following information.

1. **Introduction:** Explain who you are and what the goal of your paper is.
2. **Challenge:** Describe, in detail, the geopolitical challenge you are addressing. What is the challenge or challenge(s)? Why are they relevant to you (the actor)? Provide a comprehensive, but concise, discussion of your chosen challenge.
3. **Assessment.** Give us an idea of the implications of the challenges for your audience. Note what you think your recommendation(s) might be. This section can be more informal. You can discuss the unfinished parts of your paper, the challenges you are facing, helpful information sources, etc.
 - Include a Recording: Your final paper involves a recorded presentation, which should be made through WWU's free screen capture program.
 - Your instructor will use the following rubric for assessment:

Criteria	Ratings	Pts
Clear introduction	<i>This area will be used by the assessor to leave comments related to this criterion.</i>	2.0 pts
Relevant issue	<i>This area will be used by the assessor to leave comments related to this criterion.</i>	1.0 pts
Comprehensive discussion of challenge	<i>This area will be used by the assessor to leave comments related to this criterion.</i>	2.0 pts
Thoughtful reflection, responds to earlier feedback	<i>This area will be used by the assessor to leave comments related to this criterion.</i>	2.0 pts
Carefully edited and proofread	<i>This area will be used by the assessor to leave comments related to this criterion.</i>	2.0 pts
Bibliography	<i>This area will be used by the assessor to leave comments related to this criterion.</i>	1.0 pts
Total Points: 10.0		

Each draft of the paper, and the final version, are assessed according to the grading rubrics. Each paper is subject to two rounds of peer reviews, which are based on the same rubric that the instructor uses.

Deadlines relating to this project are provided in the syllabus and will also be posted on the LMS. Late submissions will not be accepted.