



Center for Active Learning in International Studies

The Threat Matrix:

Making Sense of Security Priorities in the 21st Century

Participate in a powerful, simple activity that frames security issues from terrorism to global warming. Students compare cold war and post cold war worlds to analyze and evaluate security policy criteria.

A special session designed for California Council for the Social Studies—CCSS 2008

In this session, the goal is to demonstrate a variety of analytical tools that students can apply when examining security and causes of war. These “frames and tools” provide a systematic process to identify and infer core concepts, create depth, and distinguish continuity and change from the past to the present.

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Materials are free and available online at usc.edu/calis using the menu link to the **Activities Database** which can be easily searched by key word. Resources are ‘doc’ files that can be edited – customized, colorized, etc.

A	Threat Matrix	activity
B	Homeland Security: Concepts & Implications	reference worksheet
C	Homeland Security: Risk from Catastrophic Events	concept map
	Bio-Security: Protecting Civilian Populations	concept map
D	Causes of War: Levels of Analysis – Three Theories	analytical frame/tool
E	Cause of War: Levels of Analysis – Spanish-American War	exercise guide
	Causes of War: War of 1812 – reading	textbook passage prepared as a...
F	Causes of War: War of 1812 – worksheet	levels of analysis “exercise”
	Cause of War: Levels of Analysis – Three Eras / Three Systems	past-present
G	Levels of Analysis in US Foreign Policy Making – Describing issues with North Korea	exercise
	US Foreign Policy toward North Korea: Putting Vocabulary & Concepts in Context	concept map
H	US Foreign Policy Making – Bush Doctrine of Pre-Emption: Comparing Axis of Evil Cases in the War on Terror	analytical exercise
	Community Issues: Checking My Level of Concern—Responsibility to Protect	application
I	President Eisenhower’s Farewell Address	application
J	Changing Nature of Security: Issues for Case Analysis	analytical frame for cases
K	Post WWII International Developments	10.9 concept map: frames security & extends to present
	World Order Models – re levels of analysis—focus on systemic level	analytical exercise
L	Two Worlds? ~ The Cold War & Post Cold War Worlds – sample guide	past-present
	Why War? – Comparing US Foreign Policy Military Decisions	analytical exercise
M	NPR: Iran Plays Delicate Game in Forging Ties with Iraq	infer ‘cold war’ comparison
	Identity - conflicts and common ground	reference for case & an application activity
N	An Overview of the Worldviews Approach	analytical frame/tool
O	General Assumptions of the Three Worldviews	
P	Security in the International System: Worldviews DEPP chart	analytical exercise
Q	President Washington’s Farewell Address, 1796 President Kennedy on the Family of Man, 1963] samples of primary sources as cases
R	Identity & Nationalism: Would you sing along?	application of perspectives

Negotiation simulations that utilize cases and problem-based learning (PBL), key word searches:

hslc 2006 – Iraq: Where do we go from here?

hslc 2007 – Iran: building stability in the Middle East

High School Case Teaching: provide analytical tools – frameworks for theories, concepts, relationships – that students apply to cases