



INSTRUCTOR RESOURCE ‘B’ SIX OPTIONS FOR IRAQ

Each student group receives one of the following proposals for consideration

Research suggestions are provided as a guide for students and may be used depending on the grade and academic level of students engaging in this lesson. Research suggestions may not be suitable for advanced students.

*The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer ran a series of discussions with individual experts regarding U.S. options in Iraq. Following the series, the experts were brought together for a group discussion. Each option below contains a link to the transcript containing the individual expert’s discussion. Students are encouraged to read the transcripts. Following is the link to the group of six that came together after the Iraq Study Group Report was released.

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/middle_east/july-dec06/iraq_12-12.html

OPTION #1: Immediate U.S. Withdrawal

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/middle_east/july-daec06/iraq_10-23.html

(expert panelist **Phyllis Bennis**)

Suggested Research to Support Immediate Withdrawal from Iraq

Research death and injury totals to date; percent of Iraqis without electricity, water, basic infrastructure compare pre and post Saddam levels of infrastructure; find Iraqi survey showing how Iraqis feel about the U.S. presence; compare to Vietnam; feasibility of withdrawing to Iraq neighbors; expert opinion calling situation a civil war; find statistics that show current U.S. troop numbers

OPTION #2: Decentralizing Iraq

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/middle_east/july-dec06/iraq_10-24.html

(expert panelist **Peter Galbraith**)

Suggested Research to Support Decentralizing Iraq

Research feasibility of creating three autonomous regions controlled by Sunnis, Shiites, and Kurds; Percentage each of Sunni, Shiite, and Kurds; Map of Sunnis, Shiites, and Kurds; Compare ethnic group location to resource map of oil; research experts who discuss this plan for creating three autonomous regions and the importance of each group receiving autonomy; research idea that culture is more powerful than country with regards to Iraq

OPTION #3: Training the Iraqi army

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/middle_east/july-dec06/iraq_10-27.html

(expert panelist **Michael Vickers**)

Suggested Research to Support training the Iraqi army

Research who and what make-up the Iraqi army; research experts who predict what training the army consists of and the importance of training the Iraqi army; research experts who talk about the importance of the Iraqis being in charge due to resentment toward the U.S. troops; research positive aspects of the Iraqi army; stress long term impact of building Iraqi army for future of Iraq

OPTION #4: Bolstering reconstruction

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/middle_east/july-dec06/iraq_10-30.html

(expert panelist Eric Davis)

Suggested Research to Support Bolstering Reconstruction

Find information about lack of infrastructure-the amount of Iraqis without adequate electricity, water, etc.; find statistics on unemployment rate and its link to the widespread crime and chaos; money spent on reconstruction; compare to the U.S. Marshall Plan following WWII-Marshall Plan for Iraq; research amount of oil currently produced and compare to pre-U.S. intervention; discuss importance of getting oil flowing to provide jobs and money to Iraqi people

OPTION #5: Increasing troops

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/middle_east/july-dec06/troops_11-01.html

(Expert Panelist Frederick Kagan)

Suggested Research to Support Increasing Troops

Research experts who stated the United States did not have enough troops at the beginning of the conflict; research expert opinion on increasing troops now, bringing order to Iraq, then withdrawing; research the insurgency and the importance of restoring order, security; research the idea of a power vacuum and compare to vacuum created after devastation of Germany after WWI and Afghanistan; Research current military numbers

OPTION #6: Use of diplomacy

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/middle_east/july-dec06/iraq_11-02.html

(Expert Panelist James Dobbins)

Research role of Syria and Iran; research who our key allies are in the region and the world and how they could help the situation; research importance of working together for peaceful means; research experts who discuss diplomacy as an effective tool; research impact of war on Iraq's neighbors illustrating importance of their role; research examples from history where engaging allies or neighbors proved to be an effective tool