Guidelines for Final Presentations  
July 27, 2006

1. **Aim:** Your final oral presentations are the culmination of all your work at MLI. The problem – which your group will define and propose solutions for – should be one having to do with a specific policy issue in development or in security or in the relation between the two. The aim of this exercise is for your team of policy analysts to display your abilities to work together under time pressure, analyze competing policy options, and make a convincing recommendation with respect to the best of these options.

2. **Teams:** Each of 10 groups will have three members each. Your group will be the same as the one formed for the Huaorani Asamblea. Hence you will know during the second week of MLI who your teammates will be for the final presentations. In composing the 11 groups, we will strive for balance with respect to development/security, gender, ethnicity, and quantitative/normative capabilities. In functioning together, you should strive, through deliberation and compromise, to achieve a united voice.

3. **Setting:** The setting will be a formal District of Columbia venue (think of the World Bank, CIA, Human Rights Watch, or the State Department) venue, but you should specify your intended audience in the presentation. You will not be role playing, and you should speak in your own voice as a team of independent analysts contracted by your clients to provide objective analysis, evaluation of options, and a recommendation. Dress professionally in a way befitting a DC policy context.

4. **Form of Presentation.** Although you will not be handing in a written memo, the form of the presentation should be similar to that of a memo in the sense that it has the following components:
   - define the problem to be solved or question to be answered
   - provide some background and context
   - clarify criteria for a good solution to the problem
   - describe and evaluate two or more competing policy alternatives for addressing the problem
   - recommend the best policy option

   It is especially important to propose criteria for a good policy, describe and assess at least two competing options for this policy, and to recommend the option that you believe best fulfills your criteria. Each group will be allotted 15 minutes for presentation and 15 minutes for addressing questions and concerns of the audience. All group members should have a turn at presenting, and all should be prepared to answer questions or respond to criticisms in defense of their assessment. A Power Point presentation is required. You will work with Ruby Marcelo and Sam Corvah to prepare equipment and avoid embarrassing and time-wasting glitches. But be ready to improvise if disaster
strikes. But be ready to improvise if disaster strikes. When your team is not presenting, you will be part of the audience and may ask questions of the other teams.

**Note:** Your group is responsible only for an oral presentation and will *not* hand in a written document. However, you may find it useful to provide your audience with brief outline or a power point slide print-out.

5. **Topic:** We provide two default questions, growing directly out of Policy Seminars I and II, and suggest some other possibilities that your team might want to use (or modify). Or your team may devise its own topic. In any case it is up to your team to choose its topic. It is permissible (and would be interesting) if more than one group chose the same topic. Do not just repeat what you did in Policy I or Policy II, but go further in addressing a default question or applying what you have learned to new but related questions. Submit electronically a one-paragraph topic proposal to Professors Crocker, Adamshik, Lopez, and Wilson by 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 18. Avoid both excessive narrowness (and mind-numbing technicality) and excessive generality (and vapid clichés). Pick a problem in which there are no easy answers and one that would benefit from unbiased analysis and evaluation of competing options and a recommendation of the best—all things considered—solution.

A. In the field of development, here is the default question and some other possibilities:

1. Default question: What should be the policy of Ecuador (or ONHAE, CONAI, an oil company, U.S. Congress, USAID, IADB, the World Bank, an NGO) with respect to promoting good development and protecting indigenous rights in Ecuador?
2. Other possibilities:
   a. How should Eritrea promote good development, for example, reduce poverty and inequality or promote democracy?
   b. How should the U.S. promote democracy in Iraq?
   c. Should the U.S. double its foreign aid to Africa?

B. In the field of security and anti-terrorism, here is the default question and some other possibilities:

3. Default question: Should the US government revise its National Security Strategy and, if so, how?
4. Other possibilities:
   a. Should the U.S. government enhance diversity within its national security institutions and, if so, how?
   b. What should the U.S. do with its detention center in Guantánamo, Cuba?

C. In the interface between development and security, here are a couple of possible questions:

1. What should be US policy with respect to Darfur?
2. Should the US promote the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA)?
3. What should US drug policy be with respect to Colombia?

5. Resolving development and security challenges in Afghanistan.

6. **Materials:** The best presentations will draw not only on one or both of the Policy Seminars but from your other MLI courses. We expect you to analyze your topic and options, and defend your recommendations from multiple dimensions – social, economic, political, and so forth. Hence you will be evaluated on your success in appropriately using the materials, tools and techniques introduced in other MLI courses – particularly from statistics and economics, in your final presentation. You are encouraged to use the class readings and discussion, the web, and library, but also to contact experts or others by email, telephone, or through direct interviews. Although there is no recipe for the right mixture of quantitative data, ethical assessment, and policy argument, each final presentation should have all three.

7. **Grading.** Each group’s final presentations will be graded both collectively and individually. Grades will be equally weighted with respect to the effectiveness of presentation as well the content of the analysis and convincingness of argument. Senior evaluators will be Professors Crocker, Wilson, and Young with assistance from other MLI faculty and staff as well as invited guests. The final presentation will count 10 per cent of your MLI final grade:

   - **Policy I:** 15 %
   - **Policy II:** 15 %
   - **Economics:** 30 %
   - **Statistics:** 30 %
   - **Final Presentation:** 10 %

**Note:** At the conclusion of MLI, the faculty will deliberate together to determine each student’s overall grade. We will consult the metric we have designed but will not be bound by it. Intangibles such as improvement, attitude, discipline, professionalism, and so forth, also will be factors in our final decision on each student’s overall summer grade.