

**Maryland Leadership Institute  
Summer 2008**

**Guidelines for Final Presentations  
Thursday, July 31, 2008**

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 its abilities to work together under an impending deadline, analyze competing policy options, and make a convincing recommendation with respect to the best of these options.
2. **Teams:** Each of 12 groups will have either four or three members each. The MLI staff will announce the groups on Friday, June 27. You will also be in the same group for the Development Policy’s “Asamblea,” to take place on July 22. Hence you will know by the end of your second week at MLI who your teammates will be for the final presentations as well as for the Asamblea. In composing the 12 groups, we have sought balance with respect to development/security, gender, ethnicity, and quantitative/normative capabilities. In functioning together, you should draw on your various skills and -- through deliberation and compromise -- strive to achieve a united voice. No changes in the composition of the groups will be permitted; it is important that you learn to work within groups to which you are assigned.
3. **Setting:** The setting for the final presentations must be a formal District of Columbia venue, (think of the Inter-American Development Bank, CIA, Human Rights Watch, or the State Department), which you will select and identify as 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 format 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**, which may include ethical criteria, for a good solution to the problem (some groups may opt to omit this component)
  - describe and **evaluate** (in the light of your criteria) the strengths and weaknesses of **two or more competing policy alternatives** for addressing the problem
  - **recommend** the best policy option

It is especially important to describe and assess at least two or three *competing* options for this policy, and recommend the option that you believe best fulfills your criteria or has the best balance of strengths over weaknesses. Each group will be allotted 15 minutes for presentation and 15 minutes for addressing the audience's questions and concerns. Each group member 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 send your power point presentation electronically to Aiesha Washington by 5 p.m. July 30. Be prepared and avoid embarrassing and time-wasting glitches. Be ready to improvise if disaster strikes. To make quick transitions between presentations, each succeeding group should be "on deck," ready to "step up to the plate."

**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 a brief outline or a power point slide print-out.

5. **Topic:** We provide some sample questions growing directly out of the Security Policy and the Development Policy seminars, respectively. Or your team may devise its own topic. In any case it is up to your team to exercise its collective agency and choose its topic. It is permissible (and might be interesting) if more than one group chose the same topic. Do not just repeat what you did in the Security Policy or Development Policy seminar; go further in applying what you have learned about an earlier issue, or tackle a new question. 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 (ethically-informed) evaluation of competing options and a recommendation of the best –all things considered – solution.. Submit electronically a one-paragraph topic proposal to Professors Adamshik, Crocker, and Levine and quantitative instructors by 9:00 a.m., Sunday, July 20.

A. In the field of **security and anti-terrorism**, here are some sample questions:

1. What should U.S. policy be with respect to its detention center in Guantánamo, Cuba?
2. The U.S. State Department has identified the internet as a vital haven for terrorists. What, if anything, can and should governments do to stop terrorist use of the internet?
3. The diplomatic storm over Iran's nuclear program continues to build. While experts say an Iranian bomb is years off, the program itself raises concern over the prospect of nuclear terrorism. Is the US policy approach to Iran working? What modifications seem most plausible?

4. What should be the role of the US military's brand new Africa Command with regard to security and development
5. What should be the US policy toward Zimbabwe and other African nations that influence Zimbabwe?

B. In the field of **development**, here are some sample questions:

1. What should be the policy of Ecuador (or ONHAE, CONAI, an oil company, U.S. government, USAID, IADB, the World Bank, OAS, an NGO) with respect to promoting good development and protecting indigenous rights in Ecuador?
2. How should Uganda promote poverty reduction, reconciliation of former enemies, and good governance?
3. What Should the World Food Programme do in relation to the current food crisis?
4. How should the US or South Africa promote democracy in Zimbabwe?
5. What urban development policies should be promoted to reduce traffic congestion, air pollution, and under-employment in Valparaiso, Chile?
6. What should Pakistan (and/or the US) do to promote the education of girls in rural Pakistan?
7. What should be US immigration policy with respect to Mexico and Central America?

C. In the interface between **development and security**, here are some sample questions:

1. What should be U.S. or South African policy with respect to the peace process in Burundi? (See Jeffrey Gettleman, "After 15 Years, Hints of Peace in Burundi," *New York Times*, June 16, 2008, A7.)
2. What should U.S. policy be with respect to sex tourism?
3. Should the U.S. give priority to development aid or homeland security?
4. Winning an election has forced Hamas' leaders to make a choice: continue to seek change through violence or embrace the political process. What US policies might facilitate a more cooperative Hamas?
5. As the Olympics draw near, critics are attacking Beijing for its policies on the environment, the press, Sudan, and Tibet. Should the US use their participation in the Olympics as policy leverage to achieve certain political gains?
6. Climate change poses threats to national security in a number of ways. Evaluate current US policies and make sound recommendations for the next administration.

6. **Materials:** The best presentations will draw not only on one or both of the Policy Seminars but from your other MLI courses, including your quantitative 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 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. **Relation of Groups.** When your team is not presenting, you will be part of the audience and may ask questions of the other teams. Two or more groups may address the same question with the intent to coordinate and cooperate, or to offer a contrasting viewpoint or competitive recommendation.
8. **Grading.** Each group will be graded collectively (group members will not be graded individually). Grades will be equally weighted with respect to the effectiveness of presentation as well as content of analysis and persuasiveness of argument. Senior evaluators will be professors Levine, Adamshick, and Crocker with assistance from other MLI faculty and staff as well as invited guests. The final presentation will count for 10 per cent of your MLI final grade:
  - **Security Policy:** 15 %
  - **Development Policy:** 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.

**MLI 2008****Final Presentation and “Asamblea: Group Assignments**

<b>GROUP 1</b>	
Richmond	Blake
Nahila	Ahsan
Vanessa	Singh
Amber	Oliva

<b>GROUP 2</b>	
Nadeghda	Gonzales
Alexander	Hall
Devon	Wilford
Lilia	Peng

<b>GROUP 3</b>	
Cristina	Arrizon
Richard	Andre
Alexander	Bibb
Ashley	Baker

<b>GROUP 4</b>	
Tyneisha	Harden
Yvette	Saleh
Jimmie	Strong
Katrina	Braxton

<b>GROUP 5</b>	
Daniel	Barker
Hannah	Cha
Erika	Carlsen
Andrea	Dai

<b>GROUP 6</b>	
Lana	Boone
LaToya	Stewart
Aaron	Jackson
Soribel	Feliz

<b>GROUP 7</b>	
Ivan	Gonzales
Shailaja	Bista
Samantha	Mignotte
Rachel	Okunubi

<b>GROUP 8</b>	
Andrew	Daehne
Weilu	Tan
Janine	Camara
Melissa	Morales

<b>GROUP 9</b>	
Elyse	Stines
Kari	Hatcher
Niara	Phillips
Donelle	Durham

<b>GROUP 10</b>	
Tristan	Allen
Kathy	Phan
Idris	Evans
Jovonte	Santos

<b>GROUP 11</b>	
Mena	Cammett
Hector	Brown, Jr.
Rafaela	Zuidema

<b>GROUP 12</b>	
Britton	Smith
Thao Anh	Tran
Priya	Punatar