

Sample Research Planning Sheet

This sheet is for use within the school prior to the submission of an Outline Proposal Form to Cambridge

Question

Is it right for the international community to interfere in the internal affairs of other nations?

Motivation

(a) Why is this an interesting / important question to answer?

We are seeing the results of foreign interference in Iraq and Syria. This seems an important issue. If international intervention takes place it can lead to disaster, but the decision of Britain and the US not to intervene in Syria has also seemed to lead to a humanitarian crisis. There have been instances like Rwanda where the international community didn't act to prevent Genocide. Where it did intervene as in former Yugoslavia, there was controversy. It seems likely that there will be more crises and it is important to look at the issues behind intervention

(b) Why is this research question interesting / important to you?

This is an interesting question for me as I am studying world politics and economics and I have been concerned to see the pictures from Mosul and Aleppo. I am interested not only in the practical outcomes but also the moral and ethical issues of intervention and think this would be a topic with lots of different views.

Points of View

(a) What is your initial view on this question?

My view initially is that intervention rarely works and that international efforts should focus more on preventing crises rather than thinking that every crisis will be solved by troops and air strikes.

(b) Outline two important alternative points of view taken on this issue.

One view is that international intervention must take place in order to prevent humanitarian suffering. Though risky, history tells us that it is better to interfere. Rwanda is a good example. The international community acts when there are natural disasters and it should act when the disasters are man made

The other view is that intervention is a quick fix. It may prevent fighting for a while but cannot bring about a long term solution and may make matters worse. In Iraq a tyrant was removed but this only opened the way to the influx of extremist groups and internal conflicts and heavy loss of life. In the end the occupying forces have to be withdrawn leaving a vacuum.

Resources

Indicate sources you have already identified and explain how and where you will be able to gather more evidence for your research.

<http://www.gmu.edu> Earl Conteh Morgan International Intervention International Journal of Peace Studies

Cambridge International AS and A Level Global Perspectives and Research (9239)
Component 4: Cambridge Research Report – Sample Research Planning Sheet

History for the IB Conflict and Intervention Rwanda and Kosovo Nick Fellows and Mike Wells (CUP 2016)

<http://www.e-ir.info/> International Intervention as a Failing Concept

www.in.org Background Information on the Responsibility to Protect (a UN policy supporting intervention)

<https://www.globalpolicy.org> Global Intervention Global Policy Forum

In Whose Name? Louis Pinegeot and Wolfgang Oberland 2014 (Opposed to intervention)

I hope to find more sources of information by following up references in these sources and doing a more intensive web search. Also I plan to write to the Institute of Peace Studies and discuss my research with my politics teacher. I also plan to interview a family friend who fought in Iraq.

Commentary from Principal Moderator

This is a good basis for a proposal form. The question is exploring an issue of global significance on which there are different views. The issue has engaged the candidate's personal interest and it is a serious and important one. There are two alternative perspectives and these can be developed further when the Outline Proposal Form is drafted. The candidate has undertaken some initial research and found some conflicting internet sources and books. These sources will provide descriptive information presenting opinions and views, while others will provide context and factual evidence, so there is scope for evaluation of evidence. The candidate also presents their initial view on the issue – which they can always change, but this demonstrates that they have thought about it.