

1. Africa Topic Paper

Statement of significance:

The millennium declaration of September 8, 2000 lists development of Africa as one of the key 8 goals of the global community. The aim was to consolidate democracy and assist Africans in their struggle for lasting peace, poverty eradication and sustainable development, thereby bringing Africa into the mainstream of the world economy. Yet Africa suffers – from AIDS, from genocide, from instable governments, from shattered economies and from ruthless dictatorships.

The topic is interesting, provocative and challenging because:

Africa is one of the greatest challenges to the world community today. Africa presents itself as a ground for political, economic, social, medical, historical, anthropologic and diplomatic challenge. Africa bears its own cultural significance and issues of peace, poverty, terrorism and political stability must be dealt with for the sustaining those cultures that lend a new color to the globe. The 53 countries in the form of the African Union (AU) also play a major role in international talks and UN resolutions.

The topic is educational because:

Africa presents so much to learn from. Be it the diverse history, geography or physiology of the continent or the multiplicity in cultures and peoples, Africa is a haven for education. Because Africa is a new market, debating US economic and diplomatic foreign policy towards Africa is important in terms of both education and experience for debaters. Resolutions of energy policy, human rights violation, medicine etc. have been debated before, but Africa lets you debate all of this together.

Ways to limit the topic:

Africa is such a big topic, it is important that the resolutions provide some limit on the topic. There are a few ways to limit the resolution. First, you could limit the topic by region or countries (ie, Horn of Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa, etc). Second, you could limit the topic by restricting US action towards Africa (ie. financial, developmental, human rights, medical, etc). Limiting the topic is important to keep the debates and research burden manageable for negative debaters. We might want to consider using BOTH limits.

SOURCES:

Africa Action: <http://www.africaaction.org/index.php>

Center for strategic and international studies: <http://www.csis.org/africa/>

UNESCO: www.unesco.org

Africa Bridge: www.africabridge.org

Problems in Africa: www.youthlinks.org

Council for Foreign Relations: <http://www.cfr.org/region/143/africa.html>

POSSIBLE ARGUMENTS:

Cases

1. AIDS
2. Poverty eradication programs
3. Natural Resource and food programs
4. Education
5. Economic development

Negative Arguments

1. China DA
2. Exploitation/dependence
3. Hegemony
4. Neo-colonialism
5. UN CP
6. African Union CP

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Resolved: The USFG should substantially improve health care in sub-Saharan Africa.
2. Resolved: The USFG should substantially increase access to education in Africa
3. Resolved: The USFG should substantially alter its foreign policy towards the Horn of Africa
4. Resolved: The USFG should substantially increase human development in North Africa.
5. Resolved: The USFG should substantially increase the promotion of democracy in Africa.