***The 2025 Thomas S. Foley Memorial***

***International Diplomacy Competition***

**International Diplomacy Rules and Procedures**

Enjoy yourself. Don’t stress! Remember all students in this competition are third or fourth-year world language students. You are all new at this. Relax and have fun. You will be surprised at how much you have learned and how talented you are in your target language.

We have changed the rules for International Diplomacy to make the event more accessible to students studying a world language, to allow the event to become a vehicle to assist students who may be considering taking the STAMP test and to bring the event more in line with true diplomacy as opposed to debate. Please remember that this is a diplomacy event – not a debate event.

According to the National Geographic, Diplomacy is the art and science of maintaining peaceful relationships between nations, groups, or individuals. Often, diplomacy refers to representatives of different groups discussing such issues as conflict, trade, the environment, technology, or security.  
  
People who practice diplomacy are called diplomats. Diplomats try to help their own country, encourage cooperation between nations, and maintain peace. ... (Diane Boudreau, Melissa McDaniel, Erin Sprout, and Andrew Turgeon, “Diplomacy.” National Geographic, National Geographic.com, September 21, 2022, education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/diplomacy. Accessed 4, December 2022.)

**Contestants in this event will play the part of diplomats.** You will sign up for the embassy of your target language country. Students studying Spanish will have a choice of representing either **Spain or Mexico**. Contestants may also represent France or Germany.

In the preliminary sessions, contestants will be working in their own embassies and discussing the questions listed below with their fellow diplomats in an effort to reach agreed solutions to the stated matters. Issues which are not fully addressed in session one may carry over to session two.

Contestant scores and ranking in the preliminary sessions will be based fifty percent on mastery of target languages (e.g., how well does the contestant speak **Spanish/French/German**).

Competitors may use an electronic or print dictionary in their target language. Students are also allowed to lapse into English, but higher scores should be given to students who are best able to converse in their target languages. The other fifty percent of a contestant’s score will be based upon the student’s effectiveness in addressing the identified issue or problem. (e.g., How well did the diplomat identify and explain the issue(s)? Was the diplomat able to help resolve any problem(s)? etc.)

Each preliminary round will be moderated and judged by a person conversant in the target language. This person will most likely, but not necessarily, be a world language teacher.

1. **Preliminary Sessions**

**Embassy Agenda**

**A. Tourism**

Your embassy is hoping to foster tourism. Prior to competition, research a tourist site or activity (of your choice) in your chosen country (France, Germany, Spain, or Mexico). At the competition, deliver a presentation on your chosen tourist site or activity. The use of visual aids is optional, but not required.

**B. Issues for Discussion:**

**Prior to the tournament:**

Read up on, and research, the following three issues.

You may write/type out a speech prior to the event and you may have a world language teacher help you prepare. However, your speech should be your own work. You should not just read a speech that someone wrote for you.

**At the tournament:**

During the preliminary sessions, discuss the following three issues with the diplomats in your embassy. As a group come to a consensus as to how your country and embassy should respond to these matters.

**Issues:**

* 1. What actions should your target country take relative to pushing the EU, US, and China into adopting necessary social changes to slow climate change?
  2. What actions should your target country take relative to assuring equal access to health care across the globe?
  3. What actions should your target country take relative to protecting the rights of women across the globe?

1. **Finals - What actions should the United Nations Security Council take relative to ending the war in Gaza?**

The **top four competitors from each target language country** will meet for the final round which will be a model United Nations Security Council Meeting called to address the issue of **What actions should the United Nations Security Council take relative to ending world hunger and food insecurity?**

1. The Secretary General of the United Nations (or his sub) will preside over the meeting and will speak in English for ease in facilitating negotiations.
2. Judges will be selected on the same criteria as in the preliminary sessions. Preliminary session judges are eligible to judge in finals.
3. Judging of competitors will be on the same criteria as the preliminary sessions.
4. Competitors should speak, to the extent possible, in their target languages.
5. When any competitor speaks, the judge of the applicable language will translate the speech into English for the benefit of the other competitors in the room. Prior to speaking, the competitor will explain, in English, to the applicable target language judge what s/he/they will be saying. This should be done to help the judge in the translation (i.e., to prevent contestant language errors from affecting negotiations).
6. ***At the conclusion of the final session, all judges will meet to rank the top five contestants. As opposed to other types of speech competition, the judges are instructed to talk with and work with each other to come up with an agreed list of the five best competitors. Awards will be presented at the Tournament Awards Ceremony.***

**GOOD LUCK! AND HAVE FUN!!!!**