CAPITOL FORUM

NEBRASKA - 2018

The first years of the 21st century have been tumultuous. As Americans we are rethinking our role in the world. The Capitol Forum engages high school students in consideration of our nation's future at this demanding moment in history. At the heart of the Capitol Forum is an exploration of four distinct visions for the United States in the coming years.

WHICH STATEMENT DO YOU MOST AGREE WITH?

RANKED #4

OPTION 1 Lead the World to Democracy

Although the world is changing rapidly, the United States remains the most powerful country on earth. For years, the international community has depended on us to maintain order and to support the principles of democracy and free trade. Globalization has created new threats to the international system, and the United States needs to use its strong military to address these threats. The United States should seek to guide global economic and political policy, and transform undemocratic regimes into governments based on U.S. political principles.

RANKED #3

OPTION 2 Protect U.S. Global Interests

We live in a dangerous and unstable world. U.S. foreign policy must strive for order and security. International terrorism, poverty, and globalization have created an international minefield for U.S. leaders. We must concentrate on protecting our own security, cultivating key trade relationships, ensuring our access to crucial raw materials, and stopping the spread of nuclear weapons to unfriendly countries or to terrorist networks. U.S. citizens have no choice but to accept the world as it is and respond pragmatically with whatever actions are necessary to keep our country safe and strong.

RANKED #1

OPTION 3 Build a More Cooperative World

Today's world is interdependent and interconnected. We cannot stand alone. National boundaries cannot halt the spread of HIV/AIDS, the damaging effects of climate change, or terrorism. We must end U.S. policies that contribute to global problems, and take the initiative to bring the countries of the world together in the pursuit of global security, human rights, and equality. We should lead efforts to strengthen and reform the UN. Using the UN is the best way to maintain peace, fight terrorism, address humanitarian crises, and enforce sanctions against countries that violate the standards of the international community.

RANKED #2

OPTION 4 Focus Our Efforts at Home

The attacks of September 11, 2001 brought a new message to U.S. citizens: we are vulnerable. Since 2001, our wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan have cost over \$4 trillion. These high-profile foreign policy programs have only bred resentment against us and even fueled terrorism. It is time to sharply scale back our foreign involvement. We must turn our national attention to the real threats facing the United States: growing economic inequality, loss of jobs, decaying schools, a shaky health care system, and inadequate resources to protect us from attacks on our own soil. The well-being of U.S. citizens should be our top priority.

Ranking the Options [Based on 341 student ballots]

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
1 st	10%	22%	46%	24%
2nd	18%	38%	17%	27%
1st/2nd	28%	60%	63%	51%
Last	46%	13%	16%	23%



WHAT 3 THINGS CONCERN YOU MOST?

1.	Nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons will proliferate and end up in the hands of terrorists	47%
2.	Billions of people worldwide will continue to suffer from poverty, hunger, and disease	44%
3.	The United States will drain its resources trying to solve other countries' problems	33%
4.	More U.S. citizens will die at the hands of terrorists	31%
5.	Inequality and injustice within the United States will continue to grow	30%
6.	Damage to the global environment will become irreparable and climate change will affect us all	30%
7.	A clash of ideologies and political values will fuel conflict and instability in the world	23%
8.	U.S. jobs will be lost to other countries	20%
	The gulf between richer and poorer countries will widen,	100/
10.	. The United States will be vulnerable to cyberattacks	16%
	The United States will lose access to oil and other key resources abroad	
	. U.S. troops will get bogged down in costly conflicts abroad	100/
	. The United States will act unilaterally and the international community will turn against us	
	Participation in international organizations will force the United States to follow costly or risky policies	00/

WHAT BELIEFS DRIVE YOUR THINKINGS

WHAI BELIEFS DRIVE TOUR IHINKINGS							
Strongly Support	Support	Undecided	Oppose	Strongly Oppose			
The United States should not do business with countries that grossly abuse the human rights of their citizens.							
35	36		18	9 2			
The United States should foo	cus its resources on c	addressing poverty, crim	e, and debt at home				

29 47 18 4 1

WHAT BELIEFS DRIVE YOUR THINKING? cont.

Strongl	y Support	Support	Undecided	Oppose	Strongly (Oppose	
As one of the richest, most powerful countries in the world, the United States has a responsibility to help improve the lives of people in poorer countries.							
19	34	•••••••	28	••••••	12	7	
Free trad	e and open econom	ies are the best wa	y to foster economic gro	wth at home and a	round the world.		
17	37	•••••••	36	••••••	7	3	
In today'	s interconnected wo	rld, many serious p	roblems can be address	ed only through into	ernational coopera	tion.	
16	45	••••••••	•••••••••	33	••••••	5 1	
U.S. hum	an rights abuses thre	eaten the country's	reputation as a great de	emocracy and world	d leader.		
14	29	•••••••	42	••••••	12	3	
The Unite	d States will always	have to compete v	vith other countries for p	ower.			
13	37		27	••••••••	21	2	
		t to decide on its o	27 wn to pressure another o	country to behave i		2	
		t to decide on its o		country to behave i		2	
The Unite	d States has no righ	••••••	wn to pressure another o	••••••	n a certain way. 16	••••••	
The Unite	d States has no righ	••••••	wn to pressure another o	••••••	n a certain way. 16	••••••	
The Unite	34 atry acting alone has	neither the moral	wn to pressure another of 33 authority nor the capacit	ry to right the world	n a certain way. 16 1's wrongs.	4	
The Unite	34 atry acting alone has	neither the moral	wn to pressure another of 33 authority nor the capacit	ty to right the world	n a certain way. 16 1's wrongs.	4	
The Unite 13 Any count 10 Using out	34 atry acting alone has 31 r economic and militers	neither the moral of	wn to pressure another of 33 authority nor the capacit	enemies than friend	n a certain way. 16 1's wrongs. 18 s.	4	
The Unite 13 Any count 10 Using out	34 atry acting alone has 31 r economic and militers	neither the moral of	wn to pressure another of 33 authority nor the capacit 36 the world creates more of 29	enemies than friend	n a certain way. 16 1's wrongs. 18 s.	4	
The Unite 13 Any count 10 Using our 9 Trying to	34 atry acting alone has 31 r economic and milite 37 make deep changes	neither the moral of ary power around in the way the wo	wn to pressure another of 33 authority nor the capacit 36 the world creates more of 29	enemies than friend angerous.	n a certain way. 16 1's wrongs. 18 s.	4 5	

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

Strongly Supp	ort Support	Undecided	Oppose	Strongly Oppos	е	
The United States should help negotiate strict international standards to address climate change and other environmental threats, even if compliance means initially paying more for "green" technology.						
25	38	••••••	26	8 3	3	
The United States	should scale back its invol	vement abroad and focus	s on the needs of its ov	vn citizens.		
19	45	••••••	24	10	2	
The United States	should increase financial c	aid to countries that are m	nost affected by pover	ry, hunger, and disease.		
15	39	29	••••••	11	6	
The United States rethink its defense	should commit itself to the strategy.	elimination of nuclear we	eapons, even if this me	•••••	6	
	should impose trade sanct				U	
	roliferation of nuclear wed					
10 31	••••••••	43	••••••••	12	4	
The United States should use military force to protect access to oil and other important raw materials, even when faced with opposition from our traditional allies and the broader international community.						
8 28	3	9	2		4	
The United States should spend what is necessary to remain a military superpower, even if this means having less domestic spending, more dept, or higher taxes.						
8 24	29	•••••	30		9	
The United States should use its military—alone if necessary—to stop gross human rights violations, even if our traditional allies or the broader international community disagrees.						
7 25	39	•••••	24	••••••	5	