Who Shapes the Response?

Compare U.S. decisions during an international crisis

SS24.CWI.4 "Compare and contrast the functions and powers of United States government entities which shape official responses to international issues and events. 4a Explain how foreign policy is created, how it can be influenced..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline actions the president and diplomats can take, circle influences and limits on their choices, and number two different military roles. Use your marks to compare who shapes the response.

A Storm Beyond U.S. Borders

1 Imagine a powerful storm strikes the fictional island nation of Nera. Its main port is damaged, and families need clean water. Nera asks the United States for help. The president can direct an immediate federal response and ask the State Department to work with Nera's leaders. Diplomats can learn what Nera needs, negotiate access to the port, and coordinate with other countries. Congress has a different job: it can approve or refuse funding for aid and hold hearings about the response. The president directs diplomacy, but Congress controls federal spending, so neither branch acts alone.

2 Foreign policy also changes when people outside government speak up. Aid groups may report that remote villages lack supplies, while voters may urge lawmakers to spend money at home. News coverage can shift attention toward the crisis. Officials must weigh those views against evidence from diplomats and military planners. Limits matter as much as influence. Nera's government must consent before U.S. personnel enter its territory for relief work. U.S. officials must follow federal law, and Congress can limit funds for an operation. Even if the president wants a larger mission, these limits can narrow what the United States does.

3 The military has tools civilian aid workers usually do not: cargo aircraft, ships, and crews trained to operate in dangerous conditions. If Nera requests assistance and U.S. leaders approve it, troops could carry water to isolated areas and reopen routes to the port. That is disaster relief, not fighting. In other situations, the military may defend the United States, deter attacks by showing it can respond, or fight when ordered under U.S. law. Its mission differs from diplomacy: diplomats seek agreements, while service members carry out assigned operations. A military shipment can support foreign policy, but it cannot replace political decisions about goals and funding.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the president's and Congress's powers differ in a response to Nera?

2. Compare one way people outside government can influence the response with one limit on what U.S. officials may do.

3. Why might diplomats and troops both be needed to get water to Nera's villages? Explain their different jobs.

4. How is the military's possible work in Nera different from its role in deterring attacks?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A storm damages the port of a U.S. treaty ally just as armed ships threaten its coast. Write five sentences proposing a U.S. response: compare the president's and Congress's roles, explain what diplomats and military personnel would each do, name one outside influence and one limit, and contrast two military functions.

ANSWER KEY

Who Shapes the Response?

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline actions the president and diplomats can take, circle influences and limits on their choices, and number two different military roles. Use your marks to compare who shapes the response. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the president's and Congress's powers differ in a response to Nera?	**The president directs the federal response and diplomacy. Congress controls funding and can hold hearings about the response.**
2	Compare one way people outside government can influence the response with one limit on what U.S. officials may do.	**Aid groups can report unmet needs and influence priorities, but U.S. personnel need Nera's consent to enter its territory for relief work.**
3	Why might diplomats and troops both be needed to get water to Nera's villages? Explain their different jobs.	**Diplomats can learn Nera's needs and negotiate access to its port. Troops can transport water to isolated areas.**
4	How is the military's possible work in Nera different from its role in deterring attacks?	**In Nera, the military could deliver supplies and reopen routes for disaster relief. To deter an attack, it shows that it can respond to a threat.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The president could direct diplomats to ask the ally what help it wants and discuss the ships with its leaders. Congress could decide whether to fund a relief operation, while the president directs the response. Reports from aid groups could push officials to prioritize drinking water, but the United States would need the ally's consent before sending relief personnel into its territory. Military crews could deliver water through the damaged port as a relief mission. Other U.S. forces could deter an attack by showing they can respond, a different job from delivering supplies.

Accept other passage-supported examples of influence or limits in question 2. For Your Turn, accept plausible proposals that distinguish the branches, diplomacy, relief, and deterrence without treating military action as a substitute for political decisions.