# A Port in Crisis

Trace how a U.S. response is shaped and limited.

**SS24.CWI.4a** "Explain how foreign policy is created, how it can be influenced, and how it can be limited."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline two steps in creating the U.S. response, circle two sources of influence, and number two limits on the plan. Use your marks to trace why the final policy may differ from the first proposal.

### Who Decides How to Help?

1. After a cyclone wrecks the port of a U.S. trading partner, its government asks Washington for help. American ships could deliver water and repair equipment, but officials must decide what to offer and on what terms. Embassy staff report local needs to the State Department, while aid specialists estimate costs and security risks. The secretary of state presents options to the president, who directs the executive branch's response. The president might authorize emergency help using money Congress has already provided for that purpose. A larger, longer mission could require Congress to approve new funding.

2. Other voices can change the plan before it takes shape. Shipping companies urge quick repairs so trade can resume; relief groups ask officials to send medical supplies first. Residents with family in the stricken country write to lawmakers, and news reports draw wider public attention. The partner government asks that its own workers lead the repair effort, while a neighboring country offers ships but wants a say in where they go. Officials weigh these requests against U.S. goals, including saving lives and keeping the port open. Influence matters, but no one outside the government can simply order U.S. policy.

3. Suppose the president proposes a five-year agreement promising U.S. teams and supplies after future storms. If written as a treaty, it needs approval from two-thirds of senators present before the United States can ratify it. Congress can also limit the plan by refusing new funding or setting rules for spending it. The president cannot spend money Congress has not made available. Even an approved plan may face practical limits: damaged docks can slow deliveries, and the partner government controls access to its territory. Foreign policy is therefore not a single announcement; choices are shaped by negotiation, law, and available resources.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do embassy staff, the secretary of state, and the president each help create the initial response?

2. Shipping companies and relief groups want different things. How could each group influence what the United States sends first?

3. Why could the president not turn the proposed five-year treaty into a ratified treaty alone?

4. Give one funding limit and one practical limit that could change the response, even after the president announces a plan.

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A cyberattack disrupts hospitals in a U.S. partner country. In one paragraph, propose a U.S. response and explain how officials could create it, how two different groups could influence it, and how one legal limit and one practical limit could affect it.

ANSWER KEY

# A Port in Crisis

HIGH SCHOOL · SS24.CWI.4a

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two steps in creating the U.S. response, circle two sources of influence, and number two limits on the plan. Use your marks to trace why the final policy may differ from the first proposal. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | How do embassy staff, the secretary of state, and the president each help create the initial response? | **Embassy staff report needs, the secretary of state presents options, and the president directs the executive branch's response.** |
| 2 | Shipping companies and relief groups want different things. How could each group influence what the United States sends first? | **Shipping companies could push officials to send port repair equipment first, while relief groups could push for medical supplies first.** |
| 3 | Why could the president not turn the proposed five-year treaty into a ratified treaty alone? | **A treaty requires approval from two-thirds of senators present before the United States can ratify it.** |
| 4 | Give one funding limit and one practical limit that could change the response, even after the president announces a plan. | **Congress could refuse new funding or set spending rules. Damaged docks could delay deliveries, or the partner government could restrict access to its territory.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After a cyberattack disrupts hospitals in a U.S. partner country, embassy staff and cybersecurity specialists could brief the State Department about urgent needs. The secretary of state could propose technical assistance, and the president could direct an initial response using funds already available. Hospital groups might urge immediate support for patient records, while technology companies might offer tools but push for their preferred systems. Congress would have to approve new funding for a larger mission, limiting what the president can promise. The partner country must also permit U.S. experts to access its hospital networks.

Accept other passage-supported influences and limits in the short answers. For the open task, accept a plausible response that identifies an executive decision-making path, two distinct influences, a legal limit, and a practical limit.