In your studies of national security policy you have encounter 3 formative elements. The first is personalities: the individual who occupy the foremost national security positions of the state. You have seen how presidents, cabinet officers, and other “influentials” have crafted arguments, designed policies, and shaped decisions.

Second is events. History shows us that events often overtake administration plans and force the government to act in ways it never contemplated – or prepared for.

Third is institutions. National security policy is more than declarations, pronouncements, and ideas. Things need to get done. American national security policy is put into action by large complex organizations: Congress, the Defense Department (which itself is made up of large complex organizations), the CIA, the State Department, etc. These institutions influence greatly both the inputs and the outputs of national security policy.

Write an clear, concise, and well-documented essay that examines the relative roles of these three elements in national security policy between 1945 and 1999. Which do you believe are the most influential in national security policy?

A well thought-out and sophisticated answer would consider the different “stages” of policy and the different levels of decision-making and how these elements might play differently at each juncture.

This essay should be your argument about what you think matters most, revealing what you have learned this semester.

Citation Style for Papers

Many different citation styles exist. One of the easiest and simplest is the "science journal" style, which is what I want you to use in your papers. There are a number of permutations depending on the reference type.

Rule 1: embed the reference with the form (author last name, year) in the your text.
President Bush recently stated "...these folks have to be punished...." (Gertz, 2001).

Rule 2: If the same author has more than one reference in a given year (as many journalists do) append a letter -- a,b,c, etc. -- to the year. (Gertz, 1999a; Gertz, 1992b).

Rule 3: You need a bibliography at the end of the paper that gives the full citation to each reference. The bibliography should be alphabetical by author last name. It takes the form:

for a journal article:

Author last name, first name (year) "Article Title," Journal Name

for a book:

Author last name, first name (year) Book Title (Publishing City: Publisher)

for material in an edited book:

Author last name, first name (year of editted book publication) "Chapter Title," in Author(s) of editted volume, ed. Title of Book ((Publishing City: Publisher)

Examples:


