



MONTANA WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL

2023 Academic WorldQuest Study Guide

All questions for the 2023 Academic WorldQuest Montana Competition will be drawn from the sources found in this document. We do not expect that students will memorize all the facts and figures found within the study guide, rather questions will focus on overall trends, themes, and ideas presented, as well as graph outliers and surprising facts. If you are having trouble clicking on any of the links below, copy and paste them into your browser or try Googling the title or site. Please contact the Council if you are unable to access any of these sites.

NOTE: The study guide for the national competition includes additional material not found on this guide and can be found on the World Affairs Councils of America's website. **The Montana competition will ONLY include questions from the resources found on the study guide below** but feel free to review additional material.

Academic WorldQuest Conference will be held at the University of Montana on Sunday, March 5th - Tuesday, March 7th. The competition will be on Tuesday, March 7th.

CATEGORY 1:

SECURING THE FUTURE OF THE

WORLD'S WILDLIFE

Animals, plants, and the ecosystems they live in make up the world around us. Environmental and human-related factors have placed wildlife at risk of endangerment and extinction. Climate change has increased annual temperatures in areas where certain species are unable to sustain themselves and deforestation and animal hunting have destroyed habitats and contributed to the extinction of many species. Failure to act now will only contribute to further endangerment of species worldwide. This topic will explore the importance of biodiversity and the variety of conservation efforts aiming to protect the future of the natural world.

SOURCES

- ["Understanding Conservation"](#) National Wildlife Federation
- ["The Importance on Biological Diversity"](#) World Wildlife Day, YouTube – February 15, 2022
- ["Bringing Back the Beasts: Global Rewilding Plans Take Shape"](#) Janey Marinelli, Yale Environment 360 – July 5, 2022
- ["What is Cop15 and Why Does it Matter for All Life on Earth?"](#) Patrick Greenfield and Phoebe Weston, The Guardian – August 30, 2022
- ["Trophy Hunting: Why a UK Import Ban Threatens Wildlife Conservation"](#) Amy Dickman, The Conversation – August 10, 2022
- ["How New Initiatives Are Protecting the Galápagos For Future Generations"](#) Mark Stratton, National Geographic – August 28, 2022
- ["Preventing Pandemics Through Biodiversity Conservation and Smart Wildlife Trade Regulation"](#) Vanda Felbab-Brown, Brookings – January 25, 2021
- ["To Secure a Future For Wildlife, Look to Their Distant Past, Study Says"](#) Suzana Camargo, Mongabay – May 3, 2022
- ["Lessons From Panda Conservation Could Help Asia's Other, Overlooked, Bears"](#) Spoorthy Raman, Mongabay – May 9, 2022
- ["Bringing Extinct Species Back From the Dead Could Hurt—Not Help—Conservation Efforts"](#) David Schultz, Science – February 27, 2017
- ["These New Technologies Could Transform Wildlife Conservation"](#) Trang Chu Minh, Changing America – February 4, 2022

CATEGORY 2:

THE ARCTIC COUNCIL: FROZEN COOPERATION

The Arctic Council is an intergovernmental organization that promotes research and facilitates cooperation among Arctic countries. Established in 1996 by the signing of the Ottawa Declaration, member states of the Council include Canada, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the United States. The Chairmanship of the Arctic Council rotates every two years among the Arctic States. The current chair for the Arctic Council is the Russian Federation (2021-2023). In March 2022, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and the United States declared that they will not attend meetings of the Arctic Council under Russian chairmanship in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. For this topic, we will investigate what happens to an intergovernmental organization when member states are at odds.

SOURCES

- ["About the Arctic Council"](#) – Arctic Council Official Site
- ["The Influence of the Arctic Council"](#) - Matthew Gross, Harvard International Review – February 16, 2022
- ["Military and Environmental Challenges in the Arctic"](#) – Carnegie Europe, November 28, 2019
- ["How the Russia-Ukraine War Challenges Arctic Governance"](#) - Daniel McVicar, CFR – May 10, 2022
- ["Lessons from Ukraine for the Arctic: Russian "Dialogue" Isn't Always What It Seems"](#) - Jeremy Greenwood, Brookings – January 31, 2022
- ["'Nor Night Nor Day No Rest': Arctic Diplomacy Divided \(and United\)"](#) – Marc Lanteigne, Over the Circle – May 21, 2022
- ["Russian Ambassador to US Warns Arctic Council Against Making Decisions Without Moscow"](#) – Trine Jonassen, High North News – June 10, 2022
- ["A Line Drawn Here: Arctic Boundaries Shift in a Time of Conflict"](#) – Marc Lanteigne, Over the Circle – July 15, 2022
- ["Arctic Council Paused: The Search for A Future for Arctic Cooperation Continues"](#) – Astri Edvardsen, High North News – April 27, 2022
- ["Could The Arctic Be a Wedge Between Russia and China?"](#) – Jeremy Greenwood & Shuxian Luo, War on the Rocks – April 4, 2022
- ["U.S. Policymakers Should Remain Wary of Chinese Ambitions in the Arctic"](#) – Daniel Kochis, The Heritage Foundation – July 28, 2022

CATEGORY 3:

ATROCITY PREVENTION AND

ACCOUNTABILITY

Atrocity crimes — war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and the crime of aggression — threaten U.S. and global security. Current events in Ukraine, Myanmar, Afghanistan, and other countries underscore the continuing need for the United States to play a leading role in preventing atrocities and holding perpetrators accountable. This category will explore developments in U.S. and global policy around atrocities and incorporate current and historical case examples. This category is sponsored by the United States Institute of Peace, a national, nonpartisan, public institution created by Congress and dedicated to helping prevent, mitigate and resolve violent conflict abroad.

SOURCES

- ["2022 Report to Congress Pursuant to Section 5 of the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act of 2018 \(P.L. 115-441\)"](#) -U.S. Department of State, July 2022
- ["Five Ways to Make the U.S. Atrocity Prevention Strategy Work"](#) -U.S. Institute of Peace, August 2022
- ["How to Achieve Accountability for Atrocities in Ukraine"](#) U.S. Institute of Peace, April 2022
- ["Four Ways the U.S. Can Help Prevent Mass Atrocities in Afghanistan"](#) - U.S. Institute of Peace, June 2022
- ["Why the U.S. Should Issue an Atrocity Determination for Uighurs"](#) - The Heritage Foundation, September 2020
- ["An Assessment of the Risk of Mass Atrocities in Uganda"](#) - The Stimson Center, October 2021
 - Executive Summary Page 4; Background Pages 10-14; Findings Pages 15-17
- ["Don't Abandon Us": Preventing Mass Atrocities in Papua Indonesia"](#) - United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, July 2022
- ["Hague Tribunal History: Decades of Atrocities, Anguish, and Justice for Ex-Yugoslavia"](#) - Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, June 2021
- ["Infographic: ICTY Facts & Figures"](#)- United States International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia
- ["2023 Global Peace Index"](#) - Vision of Humanity

CATEGORY 4:

COMBATING GLOBAL FOOD INSECURITY

After steadily declining for over a decade, global hunger is on the rise again with over 828 million people going hungry every night. The ongoing conflict in Ukraine has resulted in a disruption to food markets and has aggravated the already existing food crisis caused by conflict, climate and COVID-19. In 2022, we have watched as food prices have reached an all-time high and countries are on the brink of famine. What can be done to alleviate these strains? For this topic, we will look at how countries and humanitarian organizations have taken immediate action to mitigate the risks of food insecurity.

SOURCES

- ["The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World \(2022\)"](#) UNICEF – July 7, 2022.
 - Read Executive Summary
- ["Food Security Update"](#) World Bank – July 15, 2022
- ["World Food Programme Annual Review 2021"](#) World Food Programme – 2021
- ["The Impact of the War in Ukraine on Food Security"](#) World Bank – April 5, 2022
- ["Haitian Migration: Food Insecurity, Fragility, and a Better Way Forward"](#) Jamie Lutz & Erol Yayboke, CSIS – November 22, 2021
- ["Greenhouse Farming Improves Food Security in Cameroon"](#) Blaise Eyong, DW News – July 23, 2022
- ["Episode 6 - Food Systems: Solutions to Ending Global Hunger"](#) Elizabeth Nyamayaro, Better Food. Better World. (WFP) – December 23, 2021
- ["Feeding 9 Billion"](#) Jonathan Foley, National Geographic – 2020
- ["U.S. Government Global Food Security Strategy"](#) U.S Government– 2022.
 - Read Executive Summary

CATEGORY 5:

ECONOMIC SANCTIONS - A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD

Whether faced with aggressive military actions by one country against another, interference by one country in another country's elections, intolerable human rights violations, or the illegal testing of nuclear weapons, economic sanctions are among the first foreign policy options discussed as a response. Sanctions can be a strategic and symbolic way to exert leverage but sanctions can also bring along potential dangers after implementation. For this topic, we will analyze the decision to use sanctions and the effectiveness of these sanctions on their directed targets.

SOURCES

- ["What Are Economic Sanctions?"](#) – Jonathan Masters, CFR – August 12, 2019
- ["The Pros/Cons of Economic Sanctions Explained: Definition. Examples. Advantages and Disadvantages"](#) One Minute Economics, YouTube – December 19, 2022
- ["Are Sanctions Actually Hurting Russia's Economy? Here's What You Need to Know"](#) Ashish Valentine, NPR – July 1, 2022
- ["Ineffective, Immoral, Politically Convenient: America's Overreliance on Economic Sanctions and What to Do About It"](#) CATO Institute – February 18, 2020
- ["The Sanctions Weapon"](#) IMF – June 2022
- ["Sanctions and Their Impact on Children"](#) Zoë Pelter, Camila Teixeira & Erica Moret, UNICEF – 2022
 - Read Current Context of Sanctions and Recommendations
- ["Economic Weaponry: Uses and Effectiveness of Sanctions"](#) World Economic Forum, YouTube – May 29, 2022.
 - Watch from 17:00 until 22:00
- ["How Sanctions Work and the Power of U.S. Sanctions | The Day After"](#) Carnegie Endowment, YouTube – Sep 14, 2020
- ["The Future of U.S. Economic Sanctions"](#) Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft, YouTube – April 6, 2022.
 - Watch from 27:00 until 32:00

CATEGORY 6:

GREAT DECISIONS

Great Decisions is an annual program that focuses on critical international issues provided by the Foreign Policy Association, a member of the World Affairs Councils of America.

The Montana Academic WorldQuest local competition will only test students on the glossary section of the topics for 2022.

This year's Great Decisions topics are:

SOURCES

- [Changing Demographics](#)
- [Outer Space](#)
- [Climate Change](#)
- [Russia and the U.S.](#)
- [Myanmar and ASEAN](#)
- [Quad Alliance](#)
- [Drug Policy in Latin America](#)
- [Industrial Policy](#)
- [Biden's Agenda](#)

CATEGORY 7:

COUNTRY IN FOCUS: ETHIOPIA

Known as the “cradle of humanity and located in the Horn of Africa, Ethiopia is Africa’s oldest independent country. With Africa’s second largest population, Ethiopia represents a melting pot of ancient cultures from the Middle East and Africa. Following a past wracked with military rule, civil war, and catastrophic famine, Ethiopia emerged as a major power in the Horn of Africa during the 21st century, enjoying rapid economic growth and increasing strategic importance within the region. The economic growth of Ethiopia in recent years has been stunted with the outbreak of conflict in the Tigray region in 2020, and the rise of food-insecurity in response to grain shortages caused by the Russian-Ukraine War. This topic will focus on an overview of the state; an introduction to the U.S.-Ethiopia relations; the Tigray conflict that has shaped the country’s foreign policy; and the impact the Russian-Ukraine War has had on Ethiopia.

SOURCES

- [Ethiopia](#) – Britannica.
 - Read People, Cultural Life, Government and Society
- [Ethiopia](#) – CIA World Factbook.
 - Read Introduction and Transnational Issues
- [“Ethiopia: East Africa’s Emerging Giant”](#) Claire Klobucista, CFR – Nov. 4, 2020
- [“U.S. Relations With Ethiopia”](#) – Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. State Department
- [“Ethiopia Conflict Dynamics Shift as New U.S. Envoy Takes Over”](#) Michelle Gavin, CFR – January 10, 2022
- [“Ethiopia Tigray Conflict & Famine Explained: Eritrea, Abiy Ahmed, War Crimes & Latest News”](#) Behind the News, YouTube – July 8, 2021
- [“Still Far From Peace in Ethiopia”](#) Vanda Falbab-Brown, Brookings – February 1, 2022
- [“Could Ethiopia’s War in Tigray Spark Conflict with Sudan”](#) The Economist, YouTube – May 19, 2022
- [“Ethiopians Hope to Fight for Russia in Ukraine”](#) Reuters, YouTube – April 21, 2022
- [“How the Ukraine War Hit Ethiopia's Food Supply”](#) Channel 4 News, YouTube – July 22, 2022
- [“Ukraine Grain Ship With Aid for Ethiopia Docks in Djibouti”](#) Catherine Byaruhanga, BBC News – August, 29 2022

CATEGORY 8:

THE FUTURE OF SUPPLY CHAINS

Supply chains around the world have experienced unprecedented disruption due to COVID-19, the rise of e-commerce, the digitalization of industry, and the ongoing U.S.- China trade war. In response, we have witnessed businesses working to keep pace with breakneck technological advancements, while also developing initiatives to create sustainable supply chains. For this topic, we will explore how companies are working alongside nations to ensure that rights are protected while also fighting to meet the growing demands as we enter the post-pandemic world.

SOURCES

- ["Six Ways to Improve Supply Chains"](#) Darrell M. West, Brookings – July 12, 2022
- ["How Innovation Can Help End Forced Labor in Global Supply Chains"](#) - Dan Viederman, CFR – December 7, 2020
- ["'Virtually Entire' Fashion Industry Complicit in Uighur Forced Labour, Say Rights Groups"](#) Annie Kelly, The Guardian – July 23, 2020
- ["Gartner Predicts the Future of Supply Chain Technology"](#) Sarah Hippold, Gartner – April 20, 2022
- ["Supply Chains in a Post-COVID World"](#) Jody Aked via TED Talk, YouTube – November 3, 2020
- ["How Companies Are Overhauling Supply Chains to Ease Bottlenecks"](#) Wall Street Journal, YouTube – January 13, 2022
- ["Sustainable Supply Chains to Build Forward Better"](#) - ILO.
 - Read: [Project Overview Fact Sheet](#)
 - Read: [Case Study: Coffee Production in Colombia for the European Market](#)

CATEGORY 9:

BATTLE OF THE CENTURY:

AUTOCRACY VS. DEMOCRACY

On a trip to Taiwan in August 2022, Speaker Nancy Pelosi stated: “Today, the world faces a choice between democracy and autocracy. America’s determination to preserve democracy here in Taiwan and in the world remains iron-clad.” With the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, we witnessed the alarming threat to democracy as authoritarian forces reached across borders to spread their regime. We have also witnessed recent events of democratic countries pushing their ideals into the realm of global politics, notably Speaker Pelosi’s recent trip to Taiwan. In this topic, we will investigate how autocracies and democracies are playing for power in the realm of global politics.

SOURCES

- ["Mapped: The State of Global Democracy in 2022"](#) Visual Capitalist, May 13, 2022
- ["Democracy Report 2022: Autocratization Changing Nature?"](#) V-Dem Institute.
 - Read pages 12-15, 30-37
- ["From Democratic Decline to Authoritarian Regime"](#) Mike Smeltzer & Noah Buyon, Freedom House – 2022
- ["With Autocrats on the Defensive, Can Democrats Rise to the Occasion?"](#) Kenneth Roth, Human Rights Watch – 2022
- ["Autocracy Versus Democracy After the Ukraine Invasion: Mapping a Middle Way"](#) Richard Youngs, Carnegie Europe – July 20, 2022
- ["Autocracies Versus Democracies: 7-3 At Halftime, But a Lot Can Still Happen in the Second Half"](#) Jamie Shea, Friends of Europe – April 19, 2022
- ["Authoritarianism Advances as World Battles the Pandemic"](#) Jill Lawless, AP News – July 15, 2021
- ["When U.S. Democracy Promotion Hits a Wall"](#) Lucas Myers, Wilson Center – August 17, 2021
- ["Autocracy and Instability in Africa"](#) Africa Center for Strategic Studies – March 9, 2021
- ["The Rise of Latin America’s Anti-Politicians"](#) Sandra Weiss, IPS – June 12, 202

CATEGORY 10: CURRENT EVENTS

This round will consist of questions on world news and events. The emphasis will be from October 2022- February 2023.

In general, we recommend reading a variety of reputable national and international news sources. Most news sources (Wall Street Journal, BBC, CNN, PBS, NPR, FOX, Al Jazeera, Washington Post, United Nations, New York Times, etc.) can be obtained free online.

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