

## **American Foreign Policy Essay:** Considering the role of the United States in the World

**Task:** Argumentative Essay

**Due Date:** Friday, December 13

**Length:** ~1250 words

**Prompt:** The U.S. would have been better off staying out of global affairs. With reference to imperialism, WWI, WWII, and/or the Cold War, to what extent do you agree with this statement?

**More details:** In his farewell address, President George Washington warned Americans to avoid foreign entanglements. He argued that the United States should “steer clear” of involving itself in issues on the other side of the world.

The United States did not follow Washington’s advice and has ventured overseas many times in its history. This includes during the following periods:

1. American Imperialism (1880-1902)
2. World War I (1914-1918)
3. World War II (1939-1945)
4. Cold War (1947-1991)

Should the United States have listened to Washington? Was going overseas during these times periods a mistake? Did we have good reasons for ignoring Washington’s advice?

**Content:** Responses must discuss **at least three** of the time periods studied.

**A successful analysis will:**

- Demonstrate detailed, relevant and accurate historical knowledge.
- Synthesize information from a selection of relevant sources.
- Formulate clear and coherent arguments.
- Use relevant historical knowledge to effectively support analysis.
- Evaluate different perspectives on historical issues and events, and integrate this evaluation effectively into a response.

**Bibliography:** Students must include a bibliography with MLA citation of sources.

Papers should include 5-8 sources.