

Do You Have What it Takes to be a World Leader? Experiencing the UN General Assembly

Every fall, world leaders descend upon New York City to attend the opening session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). Over the course of a week, heads of state deliver speeches to the international community.

Given the importance of the forum, leaders use the General Assembly as an opportunity to highlight their nations' most important foreign policy positions and will often use the podium to call out other countries that they perceive to be threats to their own national security interests and rally support for their cause.

While Palestine has yet to receive full member status in the UN, for the purpose of the UNGA, the leader of the Palestinian Authority is accorded head of state status and will be given an opportunity to address "the world". Speeches from **Egypt, Iran, Israel, Iraq, Palestinian Authority, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, United States, Russia** and **Yemen** are all of particular interest to our class.

This game combines social networking with following international events...specifically in this case by following the actual people who shape those events: the world leaders! What I'm trying to do is get you more interested and engaged with these major world movers and shakers via having you guys report on their activities and opinions (and maybe even their prejudices and negative press) before, during and right after the UNGA.

MOST IMPORTANT: Only our master list of the 11 most influential regional players are to be used, and you **MUST** contact me to be assigned the leader of your choice. Once all 11 slots have been taken (first come, first served for students who have earned their Task 1&2 Badge), the "game" will be closed. So if you want the points, don't procrastinate!

Brief points:

1. The first task is to find out who will be speaking (is it the head of state or another government representative), when are they scheduled to address the UNGA and can you gather any information about (generally) what they plan on highlighting in their speech?
2. Using a "Twitter" format (no more than 160 characters, @ and #) post a "tweet" on our discussion board (titled UNGA) "in character" letting us know when you're scheduled to speak and use this as an opportunity to give a preview of your message.
Tweet a response to at least one other speech that is of interest to your country.
3. After your leader delivers his actual speech, post tweets that you think help underscore their main messages. You should tailor your tweets to hit various audiences (allies, your own political "base", skeptics, the press etc.)
4. At least twice you must mention and interact with another of our other 10 world leaders. This can be about meeting recently, or news between your countries, or just

tweeting about how you are buddies or enemies.

5. Pay particular attention to whether they are meeting with any foreign leader during their trip and anything else that is “newsworthy” (working on refugee aid, buying weapons from Russia? Signing a trade deal?)

6. You can make judgment calls to put in what the world leader may be thinking about, if you are confident in your knowledge. But don't overstate anything too radically.

7. When Twittering - look on Google news and other such sites for stories on your person and use that as a basis for your tweet. Direct quotes as the twitter is encouraged.

8. If you talk about another leader please mention them (For example- @PTMME_Barack: At the UN conference meeting with @PTMME_ElSisi about how the US and Egypt can work together on trade).

9. Try to reply to @replies to the best of your ability as the world leader - if you have any question send me an email.

10. BE CIVIL! While the occasional curse word is fun, please no mean-spirited attacks or F-bomb dropping...even if you have a leader that might be prone to such behavior!

11. Write in proper sentences with capitals. You will lose points for not capitalizing people's names and places or not writing complete thoughts.

12. If you are up for this, pick a leader and email [Shirel Benji 2016.s.benji@shalhevet.org](mailto:Shirel.Benji.2016@sshalhevet.org) (and cc me) to 'sign-up' for that leader and to get your “twitter handle”.

13. This assignment MUST be started by September 20th in order to earn credit.

** If you have twittered less than 5 times from the start to October 12th you will receive a zero. You may not tweet during Shabbat or Yom Tov but will be expected tweet over *chol hamoed* and Sundays.**

Palestine

<http://www.maanne.com>

Iran

<http://www.presstv.ir>

Saudi Arabia

<http://www.saudigazette.com.sa>

<http://english.alarabiya.net>

Turkey

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com>

Persian Gulf

<http://www.thenational.ae>

Russia

<http://english.pravda.ru>

Iraq

<http://www.iraqinews.com/features/>

Arab World

http://america.aljazeera.com/?utm_source=aje&utm_medium=redirect

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb>

http://www.bbc.com/news/world/middle_east

<http://www.cnn.com/middle-east>

Egypt

<http://english.ahram.org.eg>

Israel

www.jpost.com

Syria

<http://sana.sy/en/>

United Nations

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/70/meetings/>

Yemen

<http://www.yementimes.com>