Country Research Guide

Middle School

Directions: In order to be considered a Delegation of Excellence, this document must be submitted with registration. Some questions may not apply to your country. If a question does not apply to your country, write “Not applicable to this country” as the answer. Every effort has been made to ensure that these questions will help prepare your delegation for debate. Some questions may require some research. Therefore, start this guide as early as possible to ensure that your delegation has enough time to complete the document.

Country Name:

I. Geography

1. On what continent is your country located?

i. Name the capital of the country.

2. What is the size of your country (sq/mi). Provide a comparison--(Similar in size to Ohio. Twice the size of the U.S.)

3. If applicable, name the countries surrounding the country.

4. Is the country landlocked or near an ocean?

5. List the natural resources of this country--Gold? Oil?

6. Describe the climate. Does the country experience seasonal weather changes?

7. List 3 or 4 major environmental issues in the country.

II. History

1. When was the country founded? When did the country gain independence? Think of the U.S. It was colonized in the 16th century, but did not declare independence until 1776. Consider the change in control over the last one hundred years.

2. List any major conflicts in the last 50 years.

3. List three major events that have occurred in the last 50 years.

4. List the most important event in the history of the country. Briefly explain the event.

5. Which countries are considered allies of this country?

6. In what year did this country join the U.N.?

7. List two interesting fact about the country that many people might not know.

III. Government

1. Who is the current leader of the country? How long has this leader been in power? Is this leader affiliated with a particular political party? If so, which one?

2. Briefly explain the organization of the government. Is there a legislative branch? Do checks and balances exist? Is it a democracy? Is there a constitution?

3. Who has the right to vote in the country? Are elections considered fair?--For more information regarding free and fair elections, go to <http://www.ipu.org/cnl-e/154-free.htm>

4. List the major political parties in the country.

5. Who were the most influential political leaders in the history of the country?

6. Is the current government considered stable? If not, explain some of the issues facing the government.

IV. Population

1. What is the total population of the country?

Provide the percentages for the following

i. Males

ii. Females

iii. A breakdown by age groups (the age divisions will vary by country)

2. List the major ethnic groups.

i. Do conflicts exist between any of these ethnic groups? If so, explain.

3. List the top 2-5 religions in the country.

i. Does the government allow people to freely practice any religion?

4. What is the average income in the country?

5. What percentage of the country is considered to be living in poverty?

6. Which city has the highest population density?

V. Education

1. Does the country provide education to all citizens? If not, who has access to education?

2. List the literacy rate of the country.

3. Are male and females granted equal access to education? If not, explain.

4. What percentage of the population completes primary school? Secondary school? University?

IV. Current Issues

1. What percentage of the population in this country has access to the internet? For more information go to<http://www.itu.int/en/Pages/default.aspx>

2. Describe the condition of the infrastructure. Are roads and bridges well maintained? Are buildings earthquake proof? Is this country prepared for a natural disaster?

3. Describe the current healthcare system. Are the hospitals well-equipped to handle an emergency? Do they have enough beds? Are doctors accessible in all parts of the country?

i. Has the country experienced a major health crisis in the last 10 years?

ii. What percentage of the population is HIV positive?

iii. List the infant mortality rate.

iii. Life expectancy

iv. Major infectious diseases

4. List the top three greatest issues facing this country.

5. What are the major exports and imports of this country?

VII. Culture

1. What are the major holidays of the country? How are they celebrated?

2. What types of food is most popular in the country. List two traditional dishes of the country.

3. How do the people spend their leisure time? Is there a popular national sport?

4. List two or three of the most popular celebrities in the country. This list can include actors, singers, dancers, and sports stars.

5. What language is most popular? Is there a national language? Does the language have several dialects?

In 50 words or less, describe this country.