

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Focusing Your Thoughts

*Instructions:* You have had an opportunity to consider four options for U.S. policy toward the Middle East. Now it is your turn to look at each of the options from your own perspective. Try each one on for size. Think about how the options address your concerns and hopes. You will find that each has its own risks and trade-offs, advantages and disadvantages. After you complete this worksheet, you will be asked to develop your own option on U.S. policy toward the Middle East.

### **Ranking the Options**

Which of the options below do you prefer? Rank the options from "1" to "4," with "1" being your first choice.

- \_\_\_ Option 1: Police a Rough Neighborhood
- \_\_\_ Option 2: Keep Our Eye on the Prize
- \_\_\_ Option 3: Promote Western Values
- \_\_\_ Option 4: Break Free of Entanglements

### **Beliefs**

Considering the statements below will help you answer the first three questions of "Your Option Five." Rate each of the statements below according to your personal beliefs:

1 = Strongly Support

3 = Oppose

5 = Undecided

2 = Support

4 = Strongly Oppose

- \_\_\_ All countries are capable of making progress toward democracy, human rights, and tolerance.
- \_\_\_ Meddling in the local affairs of other countries is counter-productive and dangerous.
- \_\_\_ Economic interests should be the driving force behind U.S. foreign policy.
- \_\_\_ In international relations, reliable friends and allies are America's most valuable asset.
- \_\_\_ The United States has a moral obligation to promote the political values and freedoms that we cherish around the world.
- \_\_\_ Political disputes and cultural differences should not prevent Americans from doing business with other countries.
- \_\_\_ The greatest threats facing the United States are all at home: poverty, mediocre schools, crime, and an inadequate health care system.
- \_\_\_ America's enemies can be contained only if we remain strong and vigilant.

### **Creating Your Own Option**

Your next assignment is to create an option that reflects your own beliefs and opinions. You may borrow heavily from one option, or you may combine ideas from two or three options. Or you may take a new approach altogether. There are, of course, no perfect solutions. And there is no right or wrong answer. Rather, you should strive to craft an option that is logical and persuasive. Be careful of contradictions. For example, we should not launch an effort to promote democracy in the Middle East without expecting to upset our relations with the Arab kingdoms of the Persian Gulf.

## Your Option Five

*Instructions:* In this exercise, you will offer your own recommendations for U.S. policy toward the Middle East. Your responses to "Focusing Your Thoughts" should help you identify the guiding principles of your proposal.

1. What values and interests should guide U.S. policy toward the Middle East?

2. Which issues in the Middle East deserve the most attention from the United States?

3. What specific policies should the United States pursue toward the Middle East? (Use the policy steps featured in the options as a guide.)

4. What are the two strongest arguments opposing your option?

a.

b.

5. What are the two strongest arguments supporting your option?

a.

b.