



HS Intro to Public Services

Tuesday, May 12, 2020



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Overall Lesson: **The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Public Services sector**

Sub lesson for Tuesday, May 12: International Studies
Pathway - Foreign Service - 1 of 2

Learning Target:

Students will identify the roles of foreign service officers, both during a pandemic and in general, and understand the role politics can play in diplomatic appointments.



Opening Exercise

- Check out [Worldometer's latest statistics](#) on COVID-19 around the world.
 - Pay close attention to the number of countries affected.



Key Terms

(Definitions from Lexico.com)

- **Foreign Service:** The government department concerned with the representation of a country abroad.
- **Diplomacy:** The profession, activity, or skill of managing international relations, typically by a country's representatives abroad.
- **Diplomat:** An official representing a country abroad.
- **Ambassador:** An accredited diplomat sent by a country as its official representative to a foreign country.



Foreign Service Lesson

- As the U.S. continues to battle the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 200 other countries are also dealing with it. Much of the coordination between the U.S. and those countries occurs through the U.S. Foreign Service.
 - “The mission of a U.S. diplomat in the Foreign Service is to promote peace, support prosperity, and protect American citizens while advancing the interests of the U.S. abroad.” - U.S. Department of State website



Activity #1

- Read these two articles ([article 1](#) & [article 2](#)), then reflect on the following questions on a Google Doc or piece of paper.
 - 1) Aside from the difficulties mentioned in the articles, why might a shortage of Foreign Service workers be an even more difficult challenge to deal with right now?
 - 2) A diplomat's job centers on interactions with people in foreign countries. Why might some say it's even more important for those people to be a visible presence to people in the countries where they're serving?



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Answers to both questions will vary, but should be at least a couple sentences long, and show evidence of critical thinking and reflection.



Foreign Service Lesson

- Each president has the authority to appoint ambassadors to each of the almost 200 diplomatic posts around the world. One of the ongoing debates surrounding those appointments concerns career versus political appointments.
 - Career appointment: The appointment of a person who has worked in foreign service for a large portion of or their entire career
 - Political appointment: The appointment of a person who may or may not have any experience in foreign service. Often is a person who has helped the president in some capacity, such as with fundraising for his/her campaign



Activity #2

- Here are the percentage of political appointees for the last four presidents:
 - Trump: [44.2%](#)
 - Obama: [30.05%](#)
 - Bush: [31.8%](#)
 - Clinton: [28.06%](#)
- Source: American Foreign Service Association*
- Now, watch [this](#) story and analysis examining “Politics & Diplomacy” from 2014. Then, reflect upon the following on a Google Doc or piece of paper.
 1. Give two positives and two negatives about **both** political and career appointments.
 2. Reflect on your positives and negatives, then decide which you feel is the better option, and explain why you feel that way.



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Additional Resources

- [U.S. Secretary of State - Worldwide/Foreign Service](#)
 - [Foreign Service Officer](#)
 - [Foreign Service Specialist](#)
- [Ambassador: What They Do](#)
- [24 Hours with a U.S. Diplomat](#)
- Study & Analysis: [Troubling Trends in Ambassadorial Appointments: 1980 to the Present](#)