Advisor’s Role:

The year is 1946. You are an advisor to President Truman. It is the night before you and other advisors will meet the president to share your ideas on U.S. policy, tactics, and strategies for Soviet and International relations. You are at a dinner party in a crowded room. You meet a fellow advisor. You both want to share your views on what should be America’s foreign policy. You fear that you will be overheard. Knowing you will only have a short time together you move to a small table on the far side of the room.

You take part in a silent debate. During the debate you argue to persuade your fellow advisor to your policy views. You are convinced that your policy considerations are best for the United States in this post war time and you want his support when you speak to the president in the morning. Of course, the other advisor believes strongly in his views and will try to persuade you to his policy beliefs.

Read: International Politics in the Postwar World (*The Origins of the Cold War: U.S. Choices After World War II* by Choices for the 21st Century Education Program, Watson Institute for International Studies, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island. p. 20)

This will set the historical context for your debate.

You want to perceive past events and issues as they were experienced by people at the time, to develop historical empathy as opposed to present-mindedness.  **In this debate you do not know the rest of the story!** It is 1946. You do not know what policy will be taken or what the results will turn out to be in the future.

Study and analyze the background information (based on primary sources) for your assigned policy option.

Prepare to take part in a “silent debate” with a partner who will defend an opposing policy.

Take a moment to review the Option in Brief Overview so you will be familiar with the other three possible view points.

During the “silent debate” you may not talk at any time. You will write to each other on the same sheet of paper that will be passed back and forth when you are told to pass it. In the roles of presidential advisors you will address each other’s questions, concerns, answers and opinions on possible U.S. policies toward the Soviet Union and other countries. You will be given a set amount of time to write (about two minutes each time the paper is passed – this may vary.) After the first person writes a note to his or her debate partner - he or she will pass the paper to the partner who will write a response. The student who is not writing will sit quietly and think of what he or she might want to write next.