

Critical Thinking Assessment Project, SPRING 2008
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International Studies

B. Briefing books

By 5:00 PM every *Monday* before class, you must submit your briefing book on the week's case. Your briefing book is your summary and analysis of the case. It also details your questions and comments on the case. Students will submit their briefing books through the discussion board section of the Blackboard site. Bring your own briefing book materials to class with you, and read others' briefing books on the Blackboard site before class.

Submit your briefing as a word document starting with your last name and then the name of the case. For example, "HeyIraq.doc." Click "submit" on the blackboard site, *not* "save."

Each briefing book should be organized in the following way. Use these headings in your briefing:

Top of the page – Reading title, author, date

1. Answer the questions posed for this particular briefing. The syllabus tells you where to find them.
2. Analysis – What is your *reaction* to the reading? Does it raise issues you hadn't considered before? Does it do a good job of argumentation backed with evidence? What are its strengths? What are its weaknesses? In what ways does it connect to other issues in this course, current events, or other international studies topics? Which academic disciplines play strong roles in this reading? Which might help you understand it better? In sum, this is where you show that you are thoughtful and smart about the material. It should show that you've gone beyond the text in thinking about the week's topic.
3. Questions/Comments - What questions do you have resulting from this reading? These can be factual or analytical. They should seek to clarify your understand and analysis of the case. Don't be shy! There's no such thing as a stupid question. If there are any remaining comments or observations you'd like to make, do so here
4. Vocabulary - Make a list of *every* vocabulary word that emerged in the reading with which you were unfamiliar. Then provide a definition.