

# Examining & Practicing Genre & Rhetoric: Problem One--Joining the Global Union: Problem Handouts



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# Examining & Practicing Genre & Rhetoric:

## Problem One--Joining the Global Union

### **Problem Statement**

It's the 21st century and the United Nations has begun work on a new global federation of democratic governments to be commonly ruled by international law developed by its member nations. Ultimately these common international laws will take precedence over, but not replace, the current laws of those member nations, with a relationship between them modeled on the current United States federal/state law inter-relationship.

This new world federation, the Global Union, will eventually replace the 192-member United Nations. In exchange for rule by a sovereign body of Global Union international law, this new federation will provide its member democratic states many advantages in economics (similar to the current smaller and continental European Union), in the sharing of global resources, in political power, in one shared and collectively funded military, and, most importantly, in the preservation of the dignity and human rights of all of its individual citizens.

Just as the current European Union has taken more than 50 years to develop into its current form (it was first conceived and chartered in the mid-20th century), it is expected that the Global Union will take much of the rest of this century to fully mature. The first phase of its creation, however, is the acceptance of members that will begin the pact of global democratic nations with an attendant first round of developing international laws. Membership will be determined by a Global Council of the current United Nations, in which most nations currently hold a seat. However, EVERY nation that wishes to join, regardless of its current membership in the United Nations, must apply and prove itself to be a democratic nation that preserves the human rights of all of its individual citizens.

The Global Union will take as its members not simply those who preserve democracy in name only, but who truly recognize the importance and value of every individual citizen. Additionally, the Global Union will consider not just currently established nations, but regional groups of citizens that wish to form new democracies. Whatever the group, its case about the preservation of individual autonomy and human rights must be made before the United Nations Global Council. Thus, all groups must put forward new founding documents to demonstrate their preservation of the rights of all of their citizens. Even a country such as the United States must rethink its founding constitution and bill of rights to become a member of this new global federation.

### ***The Problem***

You live in a border territory of a country that does not protect the rights of its citizens. You wish to form your own democracy—your group will name it—as part of the new Global Union and have made this known to the United Nations Global Council. Because you and your committee are starting from scratch (your own country does not have documents protecting the autonomy and rights of its citizens), the Global Union has required that you must develop your own document that will serve this purpose. To do this, you have formed a committee with members



from other regions of your country. Each member of your committee was chosen because he or she has created an argumentative essay based on sources that will protect the rights of citizens within his or her region of your country. This individual document should be four pages with evidence to support your case for these rights within your region. You and the other members of your group will present this document using PowerPoint slides and an oral presentation to make your case before the United Nations Global Council on (include pre-set class date here). Other world groups seeking Global Union membership will make similar presentations.

### ***Your Task***

Discuss the elements of this document that will protect citizens. Identify what rights should be protected in your country so that your committee can consider them to include in its own founding document. The resources listed in this problem may help you to identify the essential elements such a document should have.

### ***Questions to consider***

- How will your group develop your country's document to preserve the rights and autonomy of its citizens?
- Where will you search for models?
- What four international models will you use?
- How will you incorporate what you each find into your country's document?

Decide what guidelines your group will use to synthesize members' drafted ideas into the oral presentation that your country must make to the United Nations Global Council on April 26 to build a case for its membership in the Global Union. Remember that you must distill each individual's work into the group presentation which you make before the Council. This will be a 5-7 minute (total) oral argument—in which every group member participates—as a demonstration of your country's democratic intentions.