

Carnegie Essay Topics 2009-2010

Applicants must respond to the question pertaining to the program to which they are applying.

A. Democracy/Rule of Law Program. Given the sobering state of global democracy and the complex array of different U.S. interests abroad, the Obama administration should hew to a minimalist line on promoting democracy abroad. Agree or disagree?

B. Middle East Program. Political reform in the Arab world is faltering. As a result should the Obama administration a) give up on attempts to promote democracy in the region or b) redouble efforts to promote reform and devise more effective democracy promotion strategies?

C. Nonproliferation Program. By the year 2015 do you think there will be more than the current nine countries with nuclear weapons? If so, which ones, and why? If not, why are people who fear this wrong?

D. Russia Program. Differences between the U.S. and Russia over development of the states in the former Soviet region and the relationships between these states and the Europe of the EU and NATO have generated some of the most difficult issues in relations between the United States and Russia. What is the origin of this tension and what steps might be undertaken to ameliorate it in the future?

E. Central Asia Program. The Obama Administration has made a "reset" in relations with Russia a key objective for the United States in Eurasia. What are the prospects for achieving a more productive relationship with Russia and what are the challenges that will face American leaders in redefining U.S.-Russia relations?

F. China Program. The United States must maintain a clear position of military predominance and political/economic leadership throughout the entire Asia-Pacific maritime region in order to protect its vital national interests in the face of China's rise. Do you agree or disagree with this proposition? Explain why.

G. South Asia Program. What is the best U.S. strategy for defeating terrorism emanating from Pakistan?

H. Energy & Climate Program. One of the major obstacles to deploying new clean technologies revolves around intellectual property rights. What is the appropriate level of technology transfer between countries? How can we balance the need to incentivize new research and development with the need to keep costs for new technology low?

I. U.S. Role in the World Program. Is America in decline as a world power?