

Essay Contest
PULSE: The Future of America

Challenges facing the United States in this globalizing world abound. You've talked with your peers around the country about the Future of America, no doubt with many different perspectives and conclusions. You've thought about it, you've debated it, and now it's time to decide. In **no more than 750 words**, please respond to the following.

**How do you envision the future role of the U.S. in the world?
What kind of nation do you want other countries to see when
they look at the U.S.?**

For this essay, after reading the Four Futures in the Choices lesson plan, craft your own Future. You may draw on the positions detailed in any of the Four Futures, but be sure that this Future is your own. Thoroughly explain the implications of your position for American action in global politics, the underlying belief system, the supporting arguments, and the concerns and tradeoffs.

Deadline: Monday, October 29th

Essays will be judged on these criteria:

1. **Focus/Thoroughness:** Does the essay answer the question thoughtfully and specifically? Does the essay engage the reader?
2. **Organization:** Does the writer not only make clear arguments, but support each argument clearly? An excellent essay is structured with a strong thesis, supporting body paragraphs, and ends with a comprehensive conclusion and recommendations.
3. **Analysis:** How well are the arguments supported? Does the writer support his or her ideas with strong facts and opinions?
4. **Originality:** Is the essay creative? A strong essay will draw upon a combination of common knowledge, as well one's original and creative ideas about the task at hand.
5. **Style/Mechanics:** Examines the structure and grammar of the essay.

The winner of the essay contest will receive a free video conference on behalf of his or her school, and the essay will be published in the next Global Nomads newsletter.