



# YALE NATIONAL INITIATIVE

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Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative  
2010 Volume II: Persuasion in Democratic Politics

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## **The Role of Persuasion in Global Politics: The United Nations and Millennium Development Goals**

Guide for Curriculum Unit 10.02.04, published September 2010  
by Deborah M. Fetzer

Today's world grows more and more complex, and this complexity is the result of changes that have occurred over time, over centuries, and now over millennia. This world history unit of study addresses the theme of continuity and change specific to global politics. My teaching experience has taught me that when students are challenged by current events, concepts, and ideologies coupled with hands-on simulations, they are more motivated to become actively engaged in learning. This unit focuses on developing countries, the establishment and mission of the United Nations (UN), and the UN's current role and responsibility to developing nations around the globe as elaborated in the Millennium Development Goals of 2000. More specifically, students will learn the art of persuasion, compose and deliver speeches persuading an audience of their choosing to provide necessary assistance in a developing country. I am hopeful that this study may help my students to understand current global issues as well as their role as world citizens. As a final note, this unit could be adapted for students in grades 6-12 or for an English class.

(Developed for World History, grade 10; recommended for World History, grade 10, U.S. History, grades 6-7 and 9; and English, Middle and High School grades)

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