## **Assignment 4: Build the National Security Strategy (NSS)**

Now that you have prepared your own White Paper—and reviewed others’ White Papers—you must collectively build the National Security Strategy that the president requested. In the end, the President wants *a single document*.

As you build this document, three tensions will arise. First, the document cannot contain everything. What priorities will you fight for, and which will you let go? You will need to identify these—and be certain that you do not lose too many of your priorities! Second, debate will be necessary, but cannot continue indefinitely. The country needs a strategy to guide the Executive Branch. At some point, the document needs to be finalized, and when it is, the United States government, American public, and adversaries abroad will expect you to behave according to its contents. Be thoughtful, therefore, about what you include (and exclude). That leads to the third tension: the policy needs to be flexible, but concrete. It needs to guide specific policy responses, even though it cannot foresee all possible, future challenges that might arise.

*Format:*

The NSC will meet under the leadership of its Acting Chairperson.

*Deadline:*

The Gamemaster will provide you with the specific date on which the President expects to receive the NSS.

*Essential components*:

* Executive summary
* Identification and explanation of threats
* Policy priorities, which explain how the country will act and the conditions under which it will do so

*Some Advice:*

* You may want to write the Executive Summary last.

*Examples:*

The following are examples to give you a sense of what a National Security Strategy looks like. You should not merely ‘update’ or ‘borrow heavily’ from these. The general strategies (2000 and 2006) will be too broad, and much has changed since the last (2003) cyberspace document.

* White House. (2003) “The National Security Strategy to Secure Cyberspace.” Available in Repository B.
* White House. (2000) “A National Security Strategy for a Global Age.” Available in Repository B.
* White House. (2006) “The National Security Strategy of the United States of America.” Available in Repository B.