
Junior 8 Competition 2007

Entry template - USA



Team name: Aquilones	School: The Harker School
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1. Introduction to your entry

Why are you, as a team of young people from a G8 country, interested in global issues, and why have you chosen to take part in Junior 8?

(Enter up to 150 words in the gray box below)

"Never doubt that a small group of dedicated people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has" ~ Margaret Mead. We, as global citizens, believe that the J8 competition is an incredible opportunity not only to become more involved in our community, but also to offer our unique viewpoints and solutions. We are thrilled to have the chance to discuss and debate concrete solutions with other young activists, who share a similar passion for world issues. A majority of the Aquilones are Amnesty International members and Model UN participants, which is how we developed our zeal for international issues. We understand that G8 leaders have taken steps to solve major problems that exist in our society, but we feel that more needs to be done in educating and informing global citizens as per the major issues facing their lives.

2. Junior 8 agenda

Focusing on the Junior 8 (J8) agenda topics, write here what you would do if you were the G8 leaders to solve the following issues. You can write up to 300 words on each of the four J8 agenda topics. You can find [more information about the topics](#) and [more information on the work of the G8 leaders](#) on the J8 website.



2.1 Climate change and energy efficiency

(Your ideas on this issue should be entered in the two gray boxes below, with up to 150 words in each box)

Idea 1:

Global warming and resulting climate changes are important world issues. At the grassroots level, it is imperative to raise awareness about the problem. Public awareness campaigns including, but not limited to, print and video commercials, public information spots, and documentaries can inform the public about what they can do to prevent global warming. Even more important is encouragement for the development and the use of public transport. Making public transportation systems more appealing, convenient, secure, and clean will help to promote this cause. Also, education and awareness campaigns, as well as monetary incentives to promote non-polluting methods of transportation, like biking and walking, should be highly encouraged.

Idea 2:

Beyond the grassroots education and awareness effects, governments need to implement programs that encourage the use of alternate fuel sources and decrease greenhouse gas emissions. Laws forcing businesses to use a threshold amount of solar energy, thereby reducing the demand for fossil-fuels, should be passed. Additionally, governments should fund nuclear energy research to find ways to make it safer and more efficient. Furthermore, usage of carbon emission caps, which have been proven to significantly reduce carbon dioxide emissions, should be mandated. We believe that pollution credits should gradually be phased out and tax credits for using cleaner technology should be phased in. Finally, as part of a national program, people who own hybrid vehicles should earn better tax and carpool benefits to further encourage reduced-emission, or "green," vehicles.

2.2 HIV/AIDS

(Your ideas on this issue should be entered in the two gray boxes below, with up to 150 words in each box)

Idea 1:

The increased rates of HIV/AIDS must be reduced worldwide, especially for impoverished women. We propose to enhance women's empowerment through social awareness and economic assistance. In poverty-stricken rural Africa, where there are few alternative choices for women, prostitution contributes heavily to the AIDS spread. G8 should promote women's economic opportunities through funding microloans and increasing

education to give women alternative choices to earn their livelihood. To increase AIDS prevention education, G8 should promote the creation of women's support groups, in which health professionals will educate women on how this disease is spread and preventable measures women can take, and aid in relieving the social stigma placed upon infected people. Education must be presented in a culturally sensitive manner to maintain a comfort level among those infected and their caregivers. G8 should help fund antiretroviral drug supplies to reduce the impact of AIDS on people's lives.

Idea 2:

In Russia, the spread of HIV/AIDS is caused by a mixture of drug abusers using contaminated needles and unprotected sex. We recommend implementing a "clean-needle" program, such as those proven effective in the US to hinder the spread of HIV/AIDS, allowing drug users to trade dirty needles for clean ones alongside educational programs on topics such as HIV/AIDS. We propose implementing educational programs in public schools, similar to programs like DARE implemented in American public schools. Funding should come directly from Russian reserves of oil revenue, which the government should use in this time of crisis. Education is a pressing issue in China and India as well. Using Chinese and Indian social icons, such as business leaders and celebrities, involved in good will efforts, through concerts or fundraisers to spread awareness will aid in solving the impending crisis.

2.3 New challenges for the global economy: intellectual property rights and corporate social responsibility

(Your ideas on this issue should be entered in the two gray boxes below, with up to 150 words in each box)

Idea 1:

In an era of increasing globalization, patent disputes are a problem for the international community. To minimize these controversies, G8 leaders should start by creating a more unified definition of patents, patent rights, and specific social responsibilities that corporations should have for the welfare of the general public. We believe that creating a more unified code will lead to an increase in respect for patent rights between nations and will help the expansion of globalization. Currently, although there is some correspondence between countries about ideas and patents, there is dissent concerning what is patentable and how the patents should be respected: certain subject matters are not patentable in some countries, although they are in others. Patent laws need to be

tightened and refined to prevent this inconsistency in the global community. It is imperative that the G8 countries attempt to reconcile and regulate the various standards among countries.

Idea 2:

We feel that one of the most pressing issues in intellectual property rights at the moment is that of pharmaceutical products, because these have a very large impact on public welfare and a direct impact on human health. In instances of serious epidemics when the public's need for medical research and breakthroughs is most pressing, the G8 leaders should promote government funding for research to give companies a financial incentive to continue searching for possible cures. In other cases involving more theoretical and general research for less urgent issues, participating countries should agree upon more defined patent laws, avoiding the issue of questionable patents. All the companies can work on the research at the same time if there is no question about patent rights. This in turn will lead to a more open environment in which companies can compete freely, resulting in more affordable products for purchase by the common consumer.

2.4 Prospects for economic development in Africa

(Your ideas on this issue should be entered in the two gray boxes below, with up to 150 words in each box)

Idea 1:

Insufficient employment, exacerbated by disease, insecurity, water inaccessibility, environmental degradation, poor sanitation, and detrimental governmental action, lies at the root of the poverty which afflicts too many in Africa. Although all factors must be addressed to suitably combat poverty, G8 should start with governmental action, insecurity, and employment. We propose that G8 support forums for intra-African governmental review, discussion, and cooperation, such as NEPAD, the African Peer Review Mechanism, and the AU, in order to minimize fiscal blunders, combat corruption, and discuss beneficial budgeting. Enlarged forums can also strengthen African security by allowing members to discuss disputes which might otherwise lead to military conflicts, and by furthering the ability of the AU to effectively implement peace keeping or hold negotiations. Support should come through financial aid for the forums, and low-interest bonds and debt repudiation for participant nations.

Idea 2:

To move Africa away from underemployed subsistence economies, G8 must help build infrastructure and extend education by offering assistance with planning, and by granting earmarked aid and no-interest bonds to countries with viable plans. Forums that enhance African security will also enable countries themselves to shift their budgets from the military towards education and technology. G8 can also further technology usage by offering tax incentives to companies who sell technology at reduced cost to Africa and by buying and distributing to small farmers agricultural technology like water pumps. Aiding small farmers helps ensure that those families can afford to have their children attend school. To combat unemployment, G8 must promote business growth. G8 can stimulate larger businesses by providing capital for limited liability and increase their competitiveness by working to eliminate tariffs on African exports. Additionally, G8 can assist smaller businesses with micro-loans.

3. References

Complete the 'references' section so the judges can see what kind of sources you used to research your J8 work.

(Enter up to 150 words in the gray box below)

- Ms. Lori Vaughn - Harker Upper School Librarian
- www.epa.gov
- [www.http://www.avert.org/global-hiv-prevention.htm](http://www.avert.org/global-hiv-prevention.htm)
- www.cdc.org
- The Economist
- Eva S. Quiroz, M.D.-Board Certified, Infectious Disease Specialist
- Ms. Carol Zink - History Teacher and J8 Advisor
- Mr. Andrew Chen - AP Chemistry Teacher
- Intellectual Property by Adam D. Moore
- "A Downside of Globalization: Overseas Patent Disputes" ~ John Boureau
- "Globalization:Threat or Opportunity?" ~ International Monetary Fund
- Mr. Raghunath Minisandram, J.D. (patent attorney, partner)
- The Future of Ideas by Lawrence Lessig
- "Patent Disputes"~Kenneth Jost
- Implementation of the Commission for Africa recommendations and G8
- Gleneagles' commitments on poverty: March 2006, The UK's contribution. 2006.

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- Economic Commission for Africa. Economic Report on Africa 2005: Meeting the Challenges of Unemployment and Poverty in Africa. United Nations: Economic Commission for Africa, 2005.

Above are a few of the many resources that we used.

4. 'Our J8 experience'

What have you learnt through the J8 process and why should your team be chosen to represent all young Americans at the Junior 8 Summit 2007?

- **How have you managed your work and worked as a team?**
- **What skills and insights have you learnt doing your competition entry?**
- **If you were able to attend the Summit what would you do afterwards to make sure you inspired other young people to become involved in global issues?**

(Enter up to 150 words in the gray box below)

After meeting to do general research on all topics, we split up into four pairs to conduct in-depth research on each topic. We met as a team at school on weekends, after school, and at the library to discuss our solutions with Ms. Zink, our advisor. Our ability to conduct relevant, insightful research was greatly enhanced by this experience. However, the greatest insights came from the information we learned on the summit issues themselves. By attending the J8 Summit, we hope to incorporate our ideas and address the G8, a body which controls incredible resources. Afterwards, we would increase awareness in our community by getting local newspapers to write articles about J8, writing to our political leaders to get them to promote J8's proposed solutions, creating new future Harker J8 teams, and sharing our solutions with local schools, which we already plan on doing. We are grateful for this J8 experience.