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Politics & International Relations
Teaching with Interview Video
Content Type

*Interview* videos are very short videos (between 30 seconds and 2 minutes) in which an expert answers an interview question. The high-level experts provide an insider perspective on a topical issue, and the video will stimulate student debate and thinking about a topic of theoretical and practical importance. Instructors can use *Interview* videos as a method for starting a classroom discussion about a specific topic or to provide an in-depth answer on a particular issue. The videos may also be used outside of the classroom as a launching pad for an assignment or independent research on a specific issue.

Loch K. Johnson Discusses Intelligence and National Security

http://sk.sagepub.com/video/analysis-of-intelligence

In this video, Loch K. Johnson discusses the role of intelligence services in the United States of America, its relationship with the government, and how information is gathered and used. The interview clip explains why intelligence is so important for decision making within the government and how the raw information gathered needs to be analyzed and placed into reports that can be used by governmental actors such as the President.

Suggested Courses or Topics

This interview can be used in any course about government and society, politics, or public policy. The interview provides information about the role of intelligence services within national governments, the methods of intelligence-gathering and sharing, and the use of intelligence by states when interacting with one another.

Classroom Clips

Listed below are a few examples of clips that focus on key concepts:

- The need for intelligence services to help a government to protect a country from attack. *Clip 0:33 – 0:55.*
- The importance of good information in the decision-making process. *Clip 0:55 – 1:18.*
- How intelligence is presented to and then used by a government. *Clip 1:39 – 2:35.*

Research Assignment

See below for some example assignments that you might use for students

Loch K. Johnson discusses different ways in which intelligence can inform decisions made by a national government and emphasizes the importance of that information for safeguarding a country from an attack. Research into one occasion in which intelligence was used by a government and summarize what the intelligence was, the way it was used, and how effective and important the intelligence was in that situation.

Classroom Discussion

Here are some example questions that might be used for in-class discussion.

Loch K. Johnson argues that good intelligence and good analysts are crucial to protecting a country from attack. In what other ways is intelligence used by national governments? How might governments know whether or not the intelligence provided is good intelligence? Is it democratic to have intelligence services that are not elected and are not transparent given that they play such a strong role in governmental decision-making?