



# Assignment

## Explain What the Sources Say About a Topic

Topic: US Humanitarian Aid

### Your Assignment:

Recently, you were watching your local news station and the lead story described the humanitarian aid being rendered to the citizens of Puerto Rico and Houston after the devastating hurricanes of 2017. The reporter discussed the need for immediate help with things such as securing shelter, getting food and water to the survivors, restoring power, etc. Furthermore, it was mentioned that the United States military was involved in the operations which you thought was interesting because you usually just consider the military as the people who go to battle for the country. You didn't realize they did things other than just fighting.

You decided to do some research on the United States military and its various roles around the world. As part of your research you found four sources. After you reviewed these sources, you answered some questions about them.

In Part 2, you will write an argumentative piece using the information you have read. (You will not do Part 2 as part of this task because this is just practice.)

## Directions for Beginning:

You will now review several sources. You may review the sources as often as you like.

## Research Questions:

After reviewing the research sources, use the rest of the time in Part 1 to answer the questions about them. Your answers to the questions will be scored. Also, your answers will help you think about the information you have read, which should help you write your argument piece.

You may refer back to your scratch paper to review your notes when you think it would be helpful.

Answer the questions in the spaces below the items.

Your written notes will be available to you in Part 1 and Part 2 of the performance task. (You will not do Part 2 as part of this task because this is just practice.)

## Sources for the Performance Task:

### Source #1

This article comes from the internet site army.com and was written by the communications director for the Army's National Guard division.

## Operation Damayan

The residents of this world are all connected. They are connected in ways that they never have been in the past because of the technological capabilities of nearly instantaneous information arriving to one's phone about events that are happening on the other side of the world.

With this ability to know things almost instantly, there comes an obligation [requirement] to instantly react with help for those in need- at least that is one of the primary goals of the United States military. Humanitarian aid, help for humans after natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes,

tsunamis, etc., is a priority to the military. They go where they are needed, when they are needed, and they do it quickly so that people don't suffer any longer than can be avoided.

Humanitarian aid consists of personal help for people. It is finding a way to take care of immediate needs such as water, housing, food, and personal necessities such as providing toothbrushes, diapers, etc. to those who have lost everything. The United States military believes that humanitarian aid missions give the people of the world an opportunity to see what the country is all about. Who is an American? What does that mean? For some people, the first encounter with an American may be with the aid worker who is there to help them survive.

The scope of the mission vary, but the military usually tries to have Marines on the ground where a disaster has hit within hours or days of the event. They go in to find routes for deliveries of supplies. The military is capable of large scale airlift operations that bring in the critical supplies to recovery. The missions are not all about supplies, though. Humanitarian aid also includes civil projects such as helping rebuild schools and orphanages, improving sanitation (things like drinking water and restroom facilities), and other things that help improve the living conditions for those in the region.

Recently the military has been involved in helping people in Puerto Rico and Texas after the 2017 hurricanes. These missions are not always international. Sometimes the humanitarian aid is needed on the homefront, and the military is there to help, as well.

There are many times, though, that the military is needed internationally. That means that they go to another country to provide support. An example of this is a small group of soldiers helping in Cameroon. They are there to help the West African country's military with security. The United States' soldiers are not "on the ground" there. That means that they are not there to do the fighting. They are there to help in other ways so that the Cameroonian people can defeat their enemy, Boko Haram.

The United States military believes that providing humanitarian aid around the world can help solidify key relationships with other countries. That doesn't mean that the United States only helps its allies (countries aligned with a similar goal). In recent years, the United States provided humanitarian aid

to the Philippines. The Philippines had closed the United States military bases there about 30 years ago, and the President of the United States at the time, Barack Obama, had been hoping to have some troops stationed in that country again. Sometimes providing humanitarian aid can reestablish opportunities for a military peacekeeping presence in a region. The Philippines named this mission, “Operation Damayan” which in Tagalog means “helping each other”. Sometimes the help has deeper implications than it may first seem.

### **Source #2**

This article comes from a high school textbook with more than one author mentioned in the credits of the book and none specifically mentioned for the chapter.

## **The United States Military**

### **Purpose**

Though the role of the United States military has changed over time, its primary purpose is stated in the Joint Publication I: Doctrine for the Armed Forces of the United States. It says that, “military power is integrated with other instruments of national power to advance and defend US values, interest, and objectives. This means that the military’s purpose is to serve and protect America, Americans, and American interests.

### **Branches of the Military**

The United States Armed Forces provide many opportunities for men and women to serve our country on land, in the air or on the sea. The military is broken up into different branches. Together, the Marines, Navy, Army, Air Force, and Coast Guard work together to defend the United States and protect its freedoms both domestically [at home] and abroad [in other countries].

An elite group of men and women make up the United States Marines. Known for their strict code of integrity and code of honor. These warriors are the main force during most conflicts because of their high level of training and skill. A conflict is a mission in which the military tries to establish peace or

protect the freedoms of others. Oftentimes, conflicts are battle zones. Marines are stationed around the world and are ready to deploy quickly. Working closely with the United States Navy, Marines operate on land, water, and in the air.

Operating on the oceans around the world, The United States Navy is the largest, most powerful Navy in the world. The Navy has ten aircraft carriers in service and many other combat vessels. Aircraft carriers are large ships that provide landing strips on the water. This means that military jets can both take off and land on these ships, hundreds of miles from land, in the middle of the ocean. The Navy is best known for their ability to transport, or carry, military men and women, as well as equipment, anywhere around the world.

The oldest branch of the military is the United States Army. The Army pre-dates the Revolutionary War with George Washington leading the way to victory. Unlike the Navy, the Army works to provide protection and aid on land. Army soldiers are trained to communicate effectively, defend against enemies, and provide rescues when necessary.

The Air Force provides global protection in the air using both speed and accuracy. Airmen and women provide support from aircrafts to the military troops on the ground. Without the support from the Air Force, some wars would be impossible to win. They support all branches of the military.

Working with the Department of Homeland Security, the United States Coast Guard patrols both United States and international waters. This means that the Coast Guard helps maintain peace not only in American waters but international waters as well. The U.S. Coast Guard not only provides protection on all waterways, they also help keep commercial and individual watercraft safe. It is the Coast Guard that provides assistance to any ship or boat lost at sea.

America's Armed Forces work within their specific missions to complement each other. The men and women who serve in these branches of the military have the freedom to choose which branch they serve in based on what interests they have.

## **Peacekeeping Missions**

The role of the military has extended beyond just helping Americans. The United States is sometimes involved in international peacekeeping missions as part of the United Nations. The United Nations (UN) is a group of governments that work together to support other countries in post-conflict situations. This means that soldiers from the United Nations' countries go to another country to help them reestablish and keep peace after a conflict or war has ended.

There are different kinds of peacekeeping missions. Sometimes the peacekeepers are there to observe only. The soldiers are unarmed [no weapons], and they are just supposed to watch to make sure that the rules of order are being followed.

There are other times, though, that the UN soldiers get involved in the actual post-conflict fighting as part of the process of restoring and keeping peace. Some experts say that peacekeeping missions have a 31-85% success rate.

## **Humanitarian Missions**

When natural disasters occur, the United States military often sends soldiers to those places to offer humanitarian aid. Humanitarian aid is help for the "humans". They provide help with getting shelter, food, water, and immediate personal necessity items to the people who have been impacted by the disaster.

These missions do not have a military or political purpose, but they are seen by the United States' leaders as a way for the military to show the world the kind side of the American people. These opportunities to provide critical help to other nations can also cement important international relationships or reestablish them.

The United States military works around the world to serve and protect America, Americans, and its interests. Seen by some as a way to establish and improve important global relationships, humanitarian aid is not entirely non-controversial because there are some who believe that **all** help should go to Americans who are suffering before any of it goes abroad.

### Source #3

This report comes from a movie review for the film *Black Hawk Down* which was released in 2001.

## **Black Hawk Down, We have a Black Hawk Down!**

This is a captivating movie depicting the events of what is known as “The Battle of Mogadishu 1993”.

On October 3 and 4, 1993, United States elite soldiers were involved in “The Battle of Mogadishu” in Somalia. Somalia is a country on the eastern side of Africa.

Task Force Ranger, which included specialists from the Army, Air Force, and Navy had been sent to the area in December 1992 with the purpose of providing humanitarian aid to Somalia’s starving people. There was no intent in becoming militarily involved, but the situation changed in March 1993 when it was decided that the supporters of Mohammed Farrah Aidid were making it impossible for the country to establish and maintain peace and therefore the purpose of the mission shifted from humanitarian relief to peacekeeping. The international community wanted to help “rebuild Somalia”.

As a result of civil war [when people from the same country fight each other], Somalia’s crops had been destroyed which resulted in a food shortage. More than a million people suffered from starvation, and approximately 300,000 died. Other countries had tried to provide humanitarian aid (food) for the Somalians, but it was stolen by Aidid (the self-proclaimed new president) as a way to control the people. The United States decided to get involved to provide a larger and stronger presence in the country to make sure that the food actually got to the people who needed it. The mission was called “Operation Restore Hope”. It did not last long as a humanitarian mission, though, because it was decided that Somalia’s order needed to be restored by use of military force.

On the afternoon of October 3, 1993, Task Force Ranger (160 men) was sent out to capture Mohammed Farrah Aidid while he was at a meeting in the center of town. It was only expected to take one hour, so the soldiers did not bring enough supplies for an extended battle.

The capture of Aidid was a success, but the situation immediately deteriorated. It is believed that the Somalians were tipped off [told] that they convoy was going into town, and the people were prepared to battle the Americans. The one hour mission turned into an overnight ordeal that resulted in the deaths of 19 United States soldiers and the capture of one Black Hawk pilot, Michael Durant, who was eventually released.

This movie is a heart-pounding thriller. I was unable to sit still as I watched the action unfold. It is well-deserving of its 5 stars and is sure to be a repeat “classic” in my household.

#### **Source #4**

This article comes from a website maintained by the United States’ Department of Defense.

The United States is involved in a variety of humanitarian missions. These are some of the ways that the United States conducts humanitarian missions.

##### **1. The Denton Program**

- supplies donated from regular civilians (not government related)
- transported by the United States military
- space related basis (no space on the military plane, no supplies are transported)
- no fee to send the donations
- hard to send to really far destinations because there is usually less space available
- originally started to send supplies to Central American countries
- one organization is “Mission of Love”
- helps domestically and abroad

##### **2. The Excess Property Program**

- involves the United States Department of Defense’s excess property (excess is leftover or not needed)
- only non-lethal property (no guns, etc.)
- can be things like bedding, clothing, vehicles
- intended to help prevent crises and recover from events
- can be accessed by domestic agencies (local or states can apply)
- helps domestically and abroad

##### **3. The Humanitarian Assistance Program**

- rebuilds hospitals, schools, etc.
- builds wells and sets up sanitation
- includes training for local citizens on how to support refugees’ return to the country, how to help the survivors of the disaster, etc.
- helps domestically and abroad

##### **4. The Humanitarian and Civic Assistance Program**



- missions conducted by military WHILE they are already in the country for training purposes (not a special mission)
  - provide medical, dental, veterinary care
  - building projects
  - allows direct contact with citizens of the other country where the troops are stationed
  - develops relationships
  - usually abroad only
5. **Funded Transportation**
- transportation of Defense Department's donations (not private citizens like The Denton Program)
  - sent as cargo
  - US government pays for the transport of the goods

***Answer this Question:***

*While avoiding plagiarism, explain what Source #1 and Source #2 say about the purpose of the United States' humanitarian missions by paraphrasing the information. Identify sources by title or number*

**Your Response:**

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