

A List of Pros and Cons

Should the United States become more involved in international affairs? Develop your own opinion by analyzing the advantages and disadvantages of an aggressive U.S. foreign policy in the past. Create a list of the pros and cons of U.S. involvement with other nations in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Then, write a paragraph presenting your opinion about future involvement.

PREWRITING

- 1. Identifying Pros and Cons of U.S. Involvement Overseas** In a chart like the one below, list pros and cons of U.S. involvement in Hawaii, Japan, and China.

Pros	Cons

- 2. Identifying Pros and Cons of the Spanish-American War** Add to your pros and cons chart by identifying American losses and gains from the Spanish-American War. Consider such issues as human lives lost and territory gained.
- 3. Identifying Pros and Cons of U.S. Intervention** What were the pros and cons of the construction of the Panama Canal and interventionist U.S. policies toward Latin America? Add notes to your chart.

WRITING

- 4. Writing Your Ideas** Review your notes and choose which ones to include in your final list. Decide whether to include only facts, only opinions, or a mixture. Then write a paragraph recommending that the United States either continue to involve itself in the affairs of other countries or pull back from such involvement. Or you might conclude that decisions concerning involvement must be made on a case-by-case basis. Use details from the chapter to support your opinion.

EVALUATING AND PROOFREADING

5. Evaluating Your Pros and Cons List and Paragraph Do your lists and paragraph do a good job of presenting your ideas? Use the questions below to evaluate and revise your pros and cons list and paragraph.

Rubric

- Does your pros and cons list include both advantages and disadvantages?
- Does your paragraph present your opinion on the matter of U.S. involvement in foreign affairs?
- Do you use your pros and cons list as support for your opinion?
- Is your paragraph convincing?

6. Proofreading Your Pros and Cons List and Paragraph Lastly, check the following:

- Capitalization and spelling of all proper names and places
- Punctuation, grammar, and spelling