

Diablo Valley College – Pleasant Hill Campus
POLSC 250 – 8583: Spring Research Project 2018
“The Global Arms Industry and International Relations”

Question: The documentary *Shadow World* explores how governments, their militaries and intelligence agencies, defense contractors, arms dealers and agents are intertwined with the global trade in weapons and how that trade fosters corruption, determines economic and foreign policies, undermines democracy, and creates human suffering. Is the film’s point about the real costs of war, and the way the arms trade drives it, a legitimate refutation of the defense industry’s claim that they are in fact enhancing international security? Or are they actually creating a more dangerous international environment?

Sample Outline
(But feel free to set this essay up as you wish)

I. Introduction / Thesis Statement – a brief statement outlining your position or something relevant about this issue.

II. Body – the bulk of the paper is here, in data taken from the readings and other evidence you have found to support your position.

1. A description of the U.S. M-I-C – what are its individual components and the relationship (if any) between them.
2. What are the “real costs of war” (DPE)?
3. Realist / Neoconservative DPE
 - a. Departments of Defense and State
 - b. The Defense Industry
4. Idealist / Critical DPE
 - a. Numerous books, articles, and websites exploring alternative explanations for U.S. involvement in overseas conflicts.
5. Documentary (*Shadow World*) DPE

III. Conclusion – after analyzing the evidence, it can be suggested that the global arms industry is creating a safer / more dangerous international environment.

Extras:

1. Again, make sure to include citations *every time you use a statement or an idea from the readings that I have provided, or that you found in your own independent research*. Using other’s work with providing proper citation is plagiarism and grounds for immediate failure on this essay.

2. An “A” paper will be:
 - a. *fully* documented and cited (include *at least* 2 – 3 books)
 - b. a *minimum* of 15 pages (including title, abstract, and reference page, meaning 13 pages of *text analysis*)
 - c. research *beyond* authors provided
 - d. turned in *on time* (April 4, 2018).
 - e. 5% reduction in final grade for “drop-offs”