

SIM SUCCESS TIPS

Our top 7 tips for online class success

First of all: you've made an excellent decision! The U.S. Government Simulation is an innovative, effective way to increase engagement and create active learning in your virtual classroom.

Both you and your students are going to enjoy it.

The online-only class format has its unique pros and cons so we've put together these seven recommendations to help maximize your experience! Read on >>>



STATECRAFT
SIMULATIONS

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1. Virtual student meetings every turn

Arrange for students to meet virtually within their Government groups such as Congress, the White House, Media, or ACLU. (4-6 students, typically) each turn, starting with “Period Zero.”

Schedule a virtual session for your class and then assign students to breakout in groups based on their role or meetings they request.. Ask them to focus on their country’s goals and decisions for that turn. 30-45 minutes of group discussion time per turn is recommended.



2. Digital discussion board to facilitate inter-team convos

Create a Statecraft discussion board on your Learning Management System, and encourage students to post legislative agendas, policy positions, or even condemn each other’s political actions in the simulation.



3. Initiate and incentivize class Q&A on discussion boards

Post discussion questions (included with the instructor materials) on a discussion board within your Learning Management System, and require students to post responses to these prompts and to their classmates' posts.

We suggest you incentivize participation by having it count towards grades. To make grading manageable, posts could be graded credit/no credit, or have 3 levels (check-minus, check, check-plus).



4. Weekly for-credit quizzes

Create short weekly quizzes using questions from the Statecraft test bank and make these automatically graded either within the Statecraft system or within your Learning Management System. Give students 10 minutes to complete a 10 question quiz, and make each quiz available for a window of 1-3 days.



5. Post-sim virtual debrief

Hold a synchronous debriefing session (via Zoom or a similar platform) after the simulation ends, allowing everyone to chime in and share their experiences. See debriefing questions included with instructor materials for ideas on questions you can ask.



6. Video updates

Encourage students to record and post short videos each turn if they have announcements to make to their classmates.

From the Speaker of the House “The President’s assumption that she can send the military wherever she pleases without Congressional Approval is a clear violation of the Constitution!”. This can help to develop students’ communication skills.



7. Video retrospective

Require each country group to record and post a brief video after the simulation has ended, reflecting on what concepts they experienced and what lessons they learned.

That's it! Please share tips & reach out with questions or concerns.

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Do you have other innovative ideas for online class success? Please tell us! Let's keep sharing great ideas within the Statecraft community.

Always reach out with questions or concerns. Teachers who ask questions report some of the best overall Simulation class experiences, so we highly encourage you to contact us! We like talking to you.