

John Kerry's Nine Reasons For Action In Syria

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U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry made the case on Friday for why the U. S. should punish Syrian President Bashar al-Assad for a "brutal and flagrant" chemical weapons attack that it says killed more than 1,400 people in Damascus last week. In a bold, passionate speech delivered from the Treaty Room at the State Department, Kerry laid out a raft of evidence he said showed Assad's forces were behind the attack, and the U.S. government released an unclassified intelligence report at the same time including many of the details.



The secretary of state, explaining what "we really know that we can talk about," went into detail on the Assad regime's chemical weapons program and how it planned for last week's attack, according to intelligence reports.

Kerry addressed the power of the Internet in showing the world the effects of the chemical attack. "Just 90 minutes later all hell broke loose in the social media," he said. Doctors saw "not a scratch, not a shrapnel wound, not a cut, not a gunshot wound. We saw rows of dead lined up in burial shrouds."

The secretary of state made a point of noting the precise number of victims the United States government has identified: 1,429 Syrians, including at least 426 children. "Even the first responders — the doctors,



nurses and medics who tried to save them — they became victims themselves. We saw them gasping for air, terrified that their own lives were in danger," he said. "This is the indiscriminate, inconceivable horror of chemical weapons," Kerry said, following his description of the attack. "This is what Assad did to his own people."

Kerry spoke about the peril of inaction in Syria. "The primary question is really no longer, what do we know. The question is what are we — we collectively — what are we in the world going to do about it." Kerry, in a line repeated often Friday on Twitter, called Assad "a thug and a murderer" and addressed the consequences of not acting against him. In an elegant phrase, Kerry made his case for U.S. involvement succinctly: "My friends, it

matters here if nothing is done." The secretary of state also acknowledged that the American public, exhausted by wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, might be wary of another engagement. "Believe me, I am, too," Kerry said. "But fatigue does not absolve us of our responsibility."

Next Generation Sunshine State Standards adapted from floridastandards.org. Standards specifically addressed in this edition are strategically aligned with state standards and annotated adjacent to the respective inquiry.

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1. In appropriate paragraph form, compare and contrast the pros and cons synonymous with initiating an attack on Syria. Provided the poignant aforementioned declarations previously disseminated by Secretary of State, John Kerry, do you personally believe invading Syria is an appropriate course of action? Thoroughly explain your reasoning and provide specific artifacts and evidence not limited solely to passage above to support your response. Create and illustrate a Venn Diagram to effectively explore relationships and patterns and to make arguments about relationships between sets. **(LA.910.3.2.2; LA.910.1.6.2; MA.912.D.7.2; MA.912.A.10.1)**
2. An elite squad of U.S. Navy Seals is strategically maneuvering through inclement weather behind enemy lines in Damascus, the capital and the second largest city of Syria after Aleppo. Their primary objective is to secure the capital city, extract and detain enemy forces, and reunite at a predetermined rally point. Their rate of speed is subject to the number of potential casualties sustained as well as insurmountable hazards encountered. If opposition forces are minimal, they will travel at an average speed of five miles per hour and therefore, arrive approximately six minutes prematurely. If resistance is profound, they will instead travel at an average speed of three miles per hour and arrive within a timely manner. The following equation can be used to model the situation, where t represents their commute time in hours $5(t - .10) = 3t$. Identify the overall distance between their initial location and the rally point. Explain why proactively deriving this information in advance is critical to mission success. **(MA.912.A.3.1; MA.912.A.10.1; MA.912.A.2.13; MA.912.A.3.5)**
3. A conjecture is an unproven statement that is based merely on observations. You can show that a conjecture is false, however, by simply identifying one counterexample. Make and test a conjecture based solely upon numbers identified in the passage above. Identify a counterexample. Based solely upon information conveyed via John Kerry, create a conditional statement or a logical statement, which contains a hypothesis and conclusion in if-then form, the converse, the inverse, and the contrapositive. Write as a biconditional statement. Decide whether each statement is true or false. Explain your reasoning. **(MA.912.D.6.2; MA.912.G.8.2; MA.912.G.8.4)**
4. Identify and thoroughly support your reasoning regarding which of the following that best describes the author's attitude toward the subject matter discussed: flippant disregard, mild frustration, passive resignation or an informed citizen. Explain the intended purpose of this passage and identify any indicators, which suggest the author may possess a bias for or against invading Syria. What is the central idea and what conclusion might one obtain from this passage? Provide an inference allied and opposing nations may derive from this passage. The point of view of this passage is best described as first person, second person, third person, or a combination of first and third person? Explain your reasoning. **(RI.9-10.1 – 10.6)**
5. Using contextual clues only, determine the most complete and accurate definitions of following italicized terms: *absolve*, *succinctly*, *peril*, *indiscriminate*, *inconceivable*, *shroud*, *shrapnel*, *regime*, and *flagrant* as obtained from the passage above. Additionally, use each word in a complete sentence to demonstrate further comprehension. **(LA.910.1.6.3; LA.910.1.6.1)**
6. **SARASOTA MILITARY ACADEMY WORD-OF-THE-WEEK** Create a concluding paragraph aligned with the passage above using the following italicized word: *Egalitarian* adj. advocating the doctrine of equal right for citizens **(LA.910.1.6.1; LA.910.1.6.5)**

Due Monday, September 9, 2013

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