

Name _____

Date _____

What are the costs? What are the benefits? Case Study: Iraq

ACTIVITY:

Now consider the war in Iraq. Clearly, it is complex. You will not be able to package it into a one-page analysis. However, you may practice looking at a conflict through the cost-benefit lens, in order to see it in a different light.

1. Find a few facts for each of the categories (as modeled in the mine cost-benefit analysis). A few websites are supplied.
2. Please write where you got your information and what agenda that site might have. This will help you be realistic about the information that you find. For example, the *Iraqi Body Count* website advocates for the rights of civilians. They appear to question the high number of casualties in this war and the facts they are using support this perspective.

COSTS:

Human: Iraqi:

Example of sources:

<http://www.iraqbodycount.net/> The *Iraqi Body Count* mission is to bring attention to civilian deaths in Iraq. They analyze a number of sources (listed on their website) to update the number of noncombatant deaths in Iraq.

American:

Example of sources:

<http://www.defenselink.mil/> (under special interest, click casualty reports). The *US Military* supports the war. Their numbers will be accurate for American casualties, yet they do not include Iraqi casualties.

Economic: Iraqi:

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/iz.html#People> CIA Factbook, Iraq, Economy (*perspective?*)

<http://www.jubileeq.org/reparations.htm> Jubilee Iraq Reparations (*perspective?*)

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/comment/story/0,,1328664,00.html> Guardian, "Why is war-torn Iraq giving 190,000 to Toys R Us?" (*perspective?*)

American:

<http://costofwar.com>, National Priorities Project (*perspective?*)

Organizational: Iraqi:

American:

<http://www.corpwatch.org/article.php?id=14482> Corpwatch "Goodbye Houston: An Alternative Annual Report on Halliburton"
(*perspective?*)

BENEFITS:

Research these issues on the web. You can also use your own ideas and back them up with specific examples.

Human: Iraqi:
(reveals social exclusion,
prejudice and
discrimination, promotes unity
and sense of identity)

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/country_profiles/791014.stm BBC Country Profile: Iraq. (*perspective?*)

American:

Sources/ perspectives:

Economic: Iraqi:
(reveals economic inequality,
promotes economic prosperity)

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/country_profiles/791014.stm BBC Country Profile: Iraq. (*perspective?*)

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American:

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/8410977/> MSNBC Article: "Poll U.S. Patriotism Continues to Soar"(*perspective?*)
<http://www.pollingreport.com/iraq.htm> Polling Report (*perspective?*)

