



World Affairs Challenge is a program dedicated to developing tomorrow's global leaders. Through ongoing mentoring, education, and competition, WAC identifies middle-school and high-school students who are passionate about world affairs and helps engage them in developing solutions to the world's most pressing problems. Through WAC, students move from awareness to action while developing skills in collaboration, communication, cognitive complexity, and problem-solving.

The centerpiece of WAC is an annual competition each spring when students present the work they have been doing for the past academic year. Student teams present a real-world problem and a proposed solution. Business executives, university professors, and non-profit leaders judge the presentations, rating teams on understanding and knowledge of the problem, cultural awareness and incorporation of diversity of thought, complexity of the problem and solution, originality, teamwork, and communication skills.

WAC is not merely a one-day competition. As students form teams, they are mentored by individuals, businesses and non-profit organizations in the community to help foster their understanding of global issues and opportunities. That mentoring can last a year or longer. And following the competition, students are connected to a network of universities and organizations where they can continue their development into global thinkers, doers, and leaders.

## World Affairs Challenge

Our purpose is to develop and foster a global perspective, cultivate awareness, understanding, knowledge and skills to enable effective international relationships.

### WORLD AFFAIRS CHALLENGE 2016

**Dates:**

March 5, 2016 (High School)

April 9, 2016 (Middle School)

**Location:**

Regis University

**Theme:**

*Smart Villages*

*In 2016 students will examine the first of three annual themes starting with Smart Villages - how remote, often off-grid, communities are integrating the basic necessities of life – water, agriculture, energy, sanitation, health, and education – to enhance the lives of some two billion inhabitants of the Earth.*

*In 2017 the theme will be Smart Cities. Students will investigate the inventive, efficient, and connected grids by which modern cities are integrating energy, transportation, communication, education, and other services. And then in 2018 – the most challenging theme of all – students will collaborate internationally to discern how best to link the lessons learned from Smart Villages and Smart Cities to craft a Smart Planet!*

*"I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be."  
~Martin Luther King Jr.*



Developing Tomorrow's Global Leaders



**global awareness** diversity  
 collaboration critical thinking action  
 problem solving communication  
 cognitive complexity  
 ideation creativity global citizen  
 relevant workforce leader  
 21st century skills engage peace  
 human rights sustainability  
 awareness climate change world economy

Learn more at [worldaffairschallenge.org](http://worldaffairschallenge.org).  
 WAC | 1031 33rd St. | Denver, CO 80205

## Get Involved

If you are convinced that global awareness, collaboration, problem-solving and communication are essential in tomorrow's workforce and its leaders—or if you just want to work with some awesome students and outrageous thinkers—consider becoming a part of WAC. There are many ways to get involved.

- **Compete.** If you're in middle school or high school and you're passionate about what's going on in the world, get a group of friends and sign up at [worldaffairschallenge.org/compete](http://worldaffairschallenge.org/compete).
- **Teach.** If you're a teacher at the middle school or high school level and you're passionate about teaching global affairs, sponsor a team. Or, if you teach at a different level or can't form a team, help mentor another team or become a judge. Learn how at [worldaffairschallenge.org/teach](http://worldaffairschallenge.org/teach).
- **Judge.** Want to witness some awesome kids with outrageous ideas? Can you give one Saturday a year? Then become a judge. Who knows—you might just find your next merit scholar, CEO or UN Ambassador. Sign up at [worldaffairschallenge.org/judge](http://worldaffairschallenge.org/judge).
- **Mentor.** If you are part of a university, corporation or non-profit that is interested in developing tomorrow's global leaders, consider becoming a mentor. Mentors help student teams broaden their global awareness, improve their research skills, strengthen their solutions, and polish their presentations. Mentors also work with individual students to set up formal mentorships and internships. Learn more at [worldaffairschallenge.org/mentor](http://worldaffairschallenge.org/mentor).
- **Support.** Believe in our cause? Help support these students through a donation. Funds help support mentoring opportunities, underwrite the competition, and fund scholarships and learning abroad programs for outstanding students. To learn more or make an online contribution, go to [worldaffairschallenge.org/support](http://worldaffairschallenge.org/support).

*“Socrates being asked of what country he was, answered: Of the world. For a high and lofty mind will not suffer itself to be penned by opinion within such narrow bounds but conceives and knows the whole world to be his own.”*

*~Justus Lipsius*

outrageous ideas



outrageous future

## Testimonials



*“It is rare that students are asked to look at a real world problem and come up with their own solution. The World Affairs Challenge helps students realize that we live in a global community.”*

*—Chris Elnicki, Middle school teacher*

*“After this year's competition a few of us decided to keep speaking out in the world. We now participate in bulletin boards on the NY Times and other web sites. We've found that as long as one is well informed, people will listen.”*

*—Sam B., Middle school student,  
WAC participant*

*“I relish the opportunity to interact with the bright and talented young people who participate in the Challenge. It recharges my optimism and hopes for greater international harmony.”*

*—R.G. Wohlgenant, Attorney,  
World Affairs Challenge judge*