

Directions: In a September 2008 forum on foreign policy, several former U.S. secretaries of state met to discuss foreign policy and provide advice for the presidential candidates.¹ This is similar to what you are being asked to do in the “Advice to a Presidential Candidate” prompt in MY Access! Below, read what the former secretaries of state had to say to the presidential candidates, and then answer the questions.

"I would advise the president to fully engage with Syria," former Secretary of State James Baker said at a George Washington University forum co-sponsored by CNN. "I think it's ridiculous for us to say we're not going to talk to Syria, and yet the Israelis have been negotiating peace with them for the last six or eight months."

1. What form of informative writing is this (fact or statistic, objective or subjective detail, example or reason, anecdote, or reference to research)?
2. Underline the verbs that indicate that the secretary of state is giving advice.

"I would urge the new president, as I'm urging this president, to explore the possibilities of cooperation and be very sure before we go the route of cutting off WTO [World Trade Organization] and the other international measures for which cooperation with Russia may be very important," Baker said.

3. What form of informative writing is this?
4. Underline the verbs that indicate that the secretary of state is giving advice.

Warren Christopher stated: “We can't be complacent about the nuclear possibilities in Iran.”

5. What form of informative writing is this?
6. Underline the verbs that indicate that the secretary of state is giving advice.

Going further:

7. Of the above statements made by former secretaries of state, which do you find most compelling? Why?

¹*CNN Politics*. “Ex-secretaries of state share advice for the next president.” Turner Broadcasting System, 16 September 2008. <http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/09/16/secretaries.state.forum/index.html?iref=newssearch> (accessed 26 September 2008).