

TABLE 5.1. Initial and Opening Scenarios

Attributes	Initial Scenario	Opening Scenario
Format	A plain text, invitation, political document, resolution, intelligence report, commission findings, all with an official letterhead as decor, satellite images with interpretation, WikiLeaks, newspaper front page, news release, or breaking news. All these can be distributed on paper, as a video clip, or as a digital file	
Criteria for good scenario	(1) Informative, (2) relevant to all actors in the simulation, (3) challenging and sometimes even provocative, (4) flexible, (5) short, (6) accessible	
Publication mode	In class: screened up front, distributed in print Published online, uploaded on the website, posted on the social network, or sent by e-mail	
Prior information	Solitary learning on topic, actor portfolio, and character biography	Initial scenario and policy plans that developed during the policy formation process
Publication date	Before policy formation begins	Before world politics interactions begin
Aim	(1) Narrows topics of contention (2) Defines operational stakes (3) Challenges values, goals, and policy plan (4) Pilot for world politics	Defines crisis elements: step-level change that induces uncertainty, threat, time pressure, or an opportunity coupled with a serious challenge
New information	Moderate	Extensive
Type of change	Limited and incremental	Sudden and major
Gravity of threat	Moderate	Severe
Time pressure	Moderate	Severe
Extent of uncertainty	Moderate	High
Triggers	Policy speeches, consultations, messages and declarations, military maneuvers, refugee flows, and deterioration in economic or domestic stability including protests and demonstrations	Mediation proposal or peace plan, endorsement of plan, abrupt cancelation of long-standing agreements, breach of redline, ultimatum, unconfirmed or confirmed alarming information on intentions, deployment or withdrawal of peace forces/observers, blockade, change in status quo, shift in balance of power, leadership change, coup d'état, takeover of strongholds by rebels in civil war, massacre, terror attack at strategic or symbolic location within or outside a state, hostage taking, retaliation raid, natural disaster, health epidemic, oil spill or massive environmental hazard