Objective. The Princeton Project is a nonpartisan effort to strengthen and update the intellectual underpinnings of U.S. national security strategy. Specifically, the Princeton Project seeks to define the scope and substance of our national security in the 21st century: the principal threats we face; our best hope of addressing those threats over the long term (grand strategy); the building blocks of any more specific national security strategy put forward by this or any future administration; the national and international infrastructure we are likely to need to implement such a strategy. We will identify areas of bipartisan agreement in each of these categories, framed as basic principles and propositions that should inform a host of more specific strategies and policies over the coming decades.

New ideas are urgently needed, and we are counting on each of the working groups to offer fresh, insightful, and relevant thinking on each issue area. The analysis of the working groups should be bold and creative with the writing style of each report similarly bold and punchy.

Authors. Working Group Co-Chairs will write the report to reflect the general views of the working group. We want to avoid the least-common-denominator result of trying to produce consensus documents. Therefore, we will not ask group members to sign or endorse the reports, nor will we invite dissenting opinions. Working group members will be listed, along with the language that the report “reflects the deliberation of the group, but not necessarily the views of all of those in it.”

Length. Each working group report should be approximately 25-30 pages (single-spaced).

Due Date. The interim report is due on August 1st. We will circulate this draft to all working group chairs for review and comments. A revised draft suitable for distribution to all working group members and conference participants must be submitted by September 16th. The final reports will be presented at the September 28-30th meetings.

Outline for each Working Group report

1. Executive Summary (1-2 pages)
2. Overview of existing thinking and recent work (5-7 pages)
   o This section is meant to be a very brief review of how we understand the current thinking and recent work done on this issue area. This section should focus on the gaps in current thinking. In order to keep this section brief, you are invited to hyperlink your document with other studies and reports, which we can post on the PPNS website.
3. Key risks/threats/challenges and opportunities in this issue area (8-10 pages)
   o Our conceptualization of the key risks/threats/challenges and opportunities will frame our recommendations on the general principles on which we should formulate U.S. foreign policy and national security strategy moving forward.
4. Major principles that should guide US national security strategy (8-10 pages)
   o Within your issue area, what are the 3-5 propositions that should form the basis for thinking about and formulating national security strategy in the coming decades, regardless of administration? If we think in terms of a Venn Diagram, what are the areas of consensus within the range of issues, priorities and perspectives we bring to the table? In the areas where we lack consensus, what is the critical issue or variable upon which our differences hinge?
   o We are interested in longer-term principles, not short-term policy prescriptions. Specific policy proposals may be addressed in more detail in an appendix if desired.
5. Conclusion (1 page)