Global Issues Model Analysis Example:

**Issue :** Swine Flu (Epidemic/Possible Pandemic)

* **Define the Problem (**List facts to prove that there is a problem. Organize your facts in a logical sequence. )
  + The current strain of swine flu is a new variation -- a mix of human, animal versions
  + Scientists concerned because flu can continue to mutate, making it hard to fight
  + No vaccines available, but washing hands and avoiding touching surfaces can help
  + The symptoms are similar to the common flu. They include fever, lethargy, lack of appetite, coughing, runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea
  + Just like the regular flu, swine flu worsens pre-existing medical conditions in people. So people with already compromised immune systems can die after contracting it
  + Pork and other pig-derived products, if properly handled and cooked, do not transmit swine flu. The flu virus is killed by cooking temperatures of 160°F (70°C).
* **Causes (**List and briefly explain the causes of the problem.)
  + People usually get swine flu from infected pigs. For example, farmers handling infected pigs can contract the virus. However, some human cases have occurred without contact with pigs or places they inhabited
  + Scientists are concerned whenever a new virus is able to jump from an animal to a person -- and then spread from person to person. When the flu spreads person to person, it can continue to mutate, making it harder to treat or fight off
* **Perspectives** (How do different groups or nations view the issue?)
  + Mexico
    - The Mexican capital, one of the world’s biggest cities, slowed to a snail’s pace as millions of residents stayed at home, fearing infection. Many who ventured out wore masks and some companies asked employees to work from home on Monday.
    - The Roman Catholic faithful listened to mass on the radio rather than go to church, and baptisms and confirmations were cancelled. Professional soccer games were played in empty stadiums, bars were closed and cyclists stayed off the road in the normally chaotic city of 20 million people.
    - Mexico’s retail and leisure sector faces a hole in takings as shoppers and diners stay home next week. Mexico City Mayor Marcelo Ebard said public closures could last 10 days.
  + United States
    - Some schools in Texas, California, Ohio and South Carolina also were closing after students were found or suspected to have the flu
  + Asia/Other Countries
    - ASIAN nations have started taking measures, including quarantines and screening passengers at airports
    - Airport checks across the region have been stepped up, China has banned pork imports, and medical facilities have been put on high alert for any patients showing flu-like symptoms.
    - Hong Kong and Taiwan said visitors who came back from flu-affected areas with fevers would be quarantined. China said anyone experiencing flu-like symptoms within two weeks of arrival from an affected area had to report to authorities. A Russian health agency said any passenger from North America running a fever would be quarantined until the cause of the fever is determined.
    - Tokyo's Narita airport installed a device to test the temperatures of passengers arriving from Mexico.
    - New Zealand health officials started screening passengers arriving at Auckland International Airport from the United States and other parts of North America.
    - Indonesia increased surveillance at all entry points for travelers with flu-like symptoms - using devices at airports that were put in place years ago to monitor for severe acute respiratory syndrome, or Sars, and bird flu.
    - Malaysia is looking at vaccinating its pig farmers as well as doctors and nurses on the ground. Hong Kong and South Korea warned against travel to the Mexican capital and three affected provinces. Italy, Poland and Venezuela also advised their citizens to postpone travel to affected areas of Mexico and the United States.
* **Successful Programs (**What strategies have been successful in dealing with the issue?)
  + No travel advisories have been issued as yet, but the Public Health Agency of Canada is working with the World Health Organization and other organizations to monitor the outbreak. Travel notices will be updated accordingly.
  + Quarantine officials at airports across Canada have been notified to be alert for symptoms of respiratory illness among travellers from Mexico
* **Global/National/Local (**How does this issue affect us at the global, national and local levels?)
  + If the virus spreads over a wide geographic area and affects a large segment of the population, it is upgraded from an "epidemic" to a "pandemic."
  + Two people in Metro Vancouver have the same swine flu virus that has killed dozens in Mexico
  + While the deaths have been limited to Mexico, the flu is spreading with 20 cases in the United States and six in Canada, and possible cases as far afield as Europe, Israel and New Zealand.
  + Nervousness about the outbreak knocked the dollar to its lowest level in a month against the yen, as traders in Asia fled into alternative currencies like the yen and the Swiss franc. The Mexican peso also weakened and oil prices fell as the weekend news sunk in
  + Mexico said it has $450,000 available to fight the flu, and the World Bank offered $205 million in loans
* **Think Globally, Act Locally (**List ideas for action and/or organizations with which you can participate in an effort to deal with the issue.)
  + Become informed about swine flu, its symptoms and how to prevent it.
  + Make an informed decision about whether or not you want to be immunized.
  + Check out the Interior Health website which provides valuable information about swine flu.