*June 1, 1809*

*Memorandum for President James Madison:*

*Subject: Continued problems with Britain*

*This memo is to update you on our pending problems with Britain.*

*As you know Sir, Britain and France still remain a problem to*

*our country. Even though we as a country under former President*

*Washington took a position of neutrality and vowed to not become*

*involved in other nation’s affairs, America continues to*

*experience abuse from Britain and France.*

*Our Americans are continually being attacked by British and*

*French war ships while at sea. While American shipping and*

*trade with other countries may be important, it is currently*

*putting us in danger. The French and British are seizing our*

*ships and American sailors are being forced to serve in the*

*British navy. This impressment (kidnapping) by the*

*British is unacceptable.*

*Further, we continue to disagree with Britain over the location*

*of the Canada and United States border. (Britain has several*

*colonies in Canada.) Not to mention, we believe the British may*

*be providing military support to Native Americans living here,*

*so that they may fight Americans who are moving near their*

*homes.*

*Since President Washington’s term, from 1789-1796, our nation*

*has adopted a policy of isolationism (avoiding alliances with*

*other countries). It is perhaps time for you to reconsider this*

*policy, and/or consider options for protecting our country*

*against Britain and France. As you know, France and Britain are*

*currently officially at war with one another. Perhaps there is*

*some way you can use this to our advantage.*

*Regardless of what you decide, as President of the United*

*States, something must be done to protect America at home and at*

*sea. It is important to secure our country’s safety with all*

*deliberate speed.*

**Assignment:**

Brainstorm at least 5 ideas for handling the situation with Britain and  France andhighlight the option you feel would be most effective. Record your ideas below!