**Problem Description Peer Review Tips**

After reading the draft, respond to the following questions:

* **What is the specific problem addressed?**

The specific problem being addressed is how language contributes to the current stalemate between Georgia and Abkhazia. Specifically, the author explores how the choice of words among both Georgians and Abkhazians creates distrust and stereotypes which reduces changes of peaceful resolution of conflict.

* **What caused the particular problem and how does it relate to the broader conflict case?**

The problem relates to the broader conflict because it shows how both sides of the conflict uses language to spread nationalistic ideologies and portray the other side as evil. The choice of language among both sides seem to be driven by nationalism, distrust and a feeling of superiority. According to the Author, Georgian politicians constantly use word choice that depicts Abkhazians as inferior and inhumane to create division and gain popularity among votes.

* **Is there background information that’s not directly relevant to the problem at hand? What other information do I need to understand the problem instead of the background details presented?**

The author provides some background information not directly relevant to the conflict. For instance, they provide information on language, and how language manipulation contributes to stereotyping. However, the author needs to provide more information on how stereotypes taught at birth are reinforced throughout the life of a person. For instance, in the media, learning institutions and even daily conversations.

* **Why is the problem important? What are the consequences of the problem?**

The problem is important because language impacts interpersonal relationship and how people perceive each other. Thus, understanding the contribution of language to the Georgia-Abkhazia conflict can help in the creation of long lasting solution to address the negative effects of language. The consequence of the problem is that it breeds enmity and distrust which makes it difficult for both sides to peacefully resolve the conflict. Thus, unless stereotypes and distrust created by the use of language and choice of words that demean the other group are addressed, peaceful solution to the conflict cannot be attained.

* **After I finish reading the problem description, I’ll read the policy options section. Do I know what problem each of the policy options will tackle?**

In the final section, the author explains the problems that each policy option will be tackle. The author explains that, their policy options will mainly tackle the negative effects of language on the relationship between the two sides. Their policy options seem to mainly consider encouraging the use of language that foster trust and breaks stereotypes.

* **On the whole, what are the greatest strengths of the paper?**

The greatest strengths of the paper include, highly detailed, coherence and minimal grammatical errors. The writer also provides sufficient examples to support their argument and the examples are well incorporated into the paper.

* **Where should the writer focus his/her energies on revising the problem description?**

The writer should focus their energy on providing a more balanced perspective of the conflict. For instance, there is a need to describe how Abkhazians uses language to dehumanize Georgians and portray them as evil people. More energy should also be focused in explaining the relationship between language and the current status of the conflict.