Changes to the Nobel Prizes?

Good afternoon, everyone. Your task today—should you choose to accept it—is to examine and then recommend changes in the current system of Nobel prizes. Some questions have arisen over the current status of the Nobel prizes, and we would you and your distinguished committee of experts to address the current situation.

The following issues should come under scrutiny:

1. The name of the prize—Alfred Nobel had, after all, a rather unsavory reputation. Perhaps the Nobel prizes should be renamed. If so, what name would you suggest?

2. The timing of the prizes—Currently the prizes are awarded annually. Might they be more suited to a biennial format or perhaps even a quadrennial format? (No, you may not check your dictionary for the meaning of *quadrennial*—consider the roots of the word and make an educated guess.)

3. The focus areas of the prizes—As you are aware, the current configuration includes prizes in the five original areas as well as the economics prize, which was added later. Should the number of prizes be changed? If so, which areas should be added (or dropped)?

4. Prizes are currently limited to a maximum of three individuals. Should this policy continue?

5. Prizes are currently limited to individuals although the peace prize has been awarded to organizations several times. Should organizations be eligible for prizes?

6. In recent years some recipients have been rather controversial, and especially so in the peace prize category. Should the Nobel committee(s) avoid controversial choices?

7. Finally, do you have any further recommendations?

Your recommendations should be provided in two modes:

1. A short presentation in today’s class (December 1), and

2. A written report (in the correct style) to be submitted by next week’s class (December 8). Your report should include a title page and be written in essay style, not as bullet points. The report should also be in the correct format (e.g., Times New Roman font).