

Final Paper: Town Hall Project Analysis and Action Plan

Due: May 20, 2013

In this final assignment, write a paper that is **no more than 7 pages** in which you **discuss what action the government has taken on your policy issue and ways that you will try to have an impact on the issue.**

Draw on your advocacy work, your research, our class readings, lectures and discussions, and on your discussions at the Town Hall Meeting. This requires that you make connections with your previous assignments.

Use this checklist to assist in writing your paper:

- Incorporate 10 of the course concepts from the semester.***
- EXPLAIN how those concepts relate to your policy proposal.***
- Be objective. You will be more persuasive if you present your arguments and support them with evidence, data, reference to experts, etc. Do not merely present your opinion, your beliefs or your thoughts.
- Students **must use TURNITIN** for this paper (instructions will be provided later in the semester).
- Write clearly.
- Use complete thoughts and full paragraphs, not a list.
- Your paper must be typed, double spaced with one-inch margins on all sides, using a 12-point font.
- Cite the class readings directly. The more you analytically relate your discussion to the class readings, the better your grade will be.
- Follow the citation and reference format outlined on BBLearn in the "citation help" folder.
- Provide a list of "References" at the end of your paper that lists, in alphabetical order, the sources you cited in your paper (e.g., articles, class readings, etc). See BBLearn
- Number your pages.
- Give your paper an appropriate title related to your issue.
- PROOF READ** your paper before submitting it. One effective way to proof read is to read your paper out loud. If it does not sound right, it probably is not right.

Address the following 5 points in your paper:

- 1. Policy Solution.** What is the policy problem that you have identified, and the policy solution that you propose? Note that you may have a revised policy solution at this point.
 - **Explain why your proposed policy solution is both desirable *and* possible** using the information you have collected from your research and the material in our class readings and discussions. Use the sources (newspaper and magazine articles and political actors) and course concepts and political actors you identified in previous assignments as well as insights from Town Hall Meeting to explain and support your position.
 - Be sure to **consider any opposing arguments** to your policy solution, and explain why they are not desirable and/or possible. Use the sources (newspaper and magazine articles and political actors), course concepts you identified in previous assignments and insights you acquired at the Town Hall Meeting to explain and support your position.

2. What has happened? Discuss what the various branches of government or other political actors have done on your issue (the legislature, the executive and bureaucracy, the judicial branch, interest groups, parties, etc.). For example:

- Has a bill been introduced in Congress or the state legislature that might achieve your policy goal? Who has introduced it? What has happened to the legislation thus far? What chance does it have of passage and why?
- Which bureaucratic agency is responsible for the policy area? Does it act in a manner that is consistent with your policy proposal? Does the president or governor support your position?
- Has there been any judicial action on your policy area? Was the outcome one that you would support?
- Is an interest group or party particularly active on the issue?

3. Policy Advocacy.

- Describe the advocacy work that you completed this semester (at least 5 hours).
- How did the advocacy work support your policy solution?
- How did the advocacy work support or alter your understanding of the political process?
- How would you improve future advocacy work?

4. How can I continue this work? Action Plan.

Identify and discuss how you will attempt to put your policy proposal into action. Be specific and realistic. Create an action plan that you could actually follow. Refer to both your work so far, your research so far **and** the Town Hall Meeting conversations for ideas of how you could take action on your policy proposal.

- Identify and discuss the points at which you will attempt (or have already attempted) to impact government to put your policy proposal into action. What actions or activities might you (or have you) engage in to help achieve your proposed policy solution?
 - Be specific. For example, you may join and with work an interest group (which group?), volunteer for a candidate or party (which ones?), contribute money to a cause, candidate or party (which ones?), write letters to lawmakers and/or government agencies (which one, specifically?), etc.
- What did you learn this semester that necessitated a change (or multiple changes) to your action plan?
- Explain how and why were the changes necessary to make your solution more desirable and/or possible?

NOTE: Be sure to cite all sources (e.g., the news articles, the class readings, etc.) properly. Provide a citation for anything that is not your idea, and include a list of “References” used at the end of your paper. See ***BBlearn (Citation Help folder)***.

PROOF READ your paper!