

This assignment asks you to develop a proposal for a specific policy, including a plan for how to best navigate the political process of its adoption. Your job is to lay out a clear and well-researched argument about where, when, and how you can give the best possible version of your policy the best chance at adoption and implementation. This is policy reality.

The assignment is broken down into stages not only to keep your group progressing on the work throughout the semester, but to enable me to give you informed feedback. As such, I ask that you take very seriously deadlines—a day or two off schedule can mean I don't have time to get you feedback in time for it to help you on the next piece of the assignment.

Grades from the individual pieces of the assignment will contribute to the overall grade for the project according to the following breakdown:

10%—Policy idea pitch

10%—Policy background summary

10%—Policy friends and foes research

10%—Peer evaluation of contributions (cooperation, responsibility; idea generation)

35%—Full policy proposal paper

20%—Group presentation

5%—Individual presentation

### **Policy Idea Pitch ~3 pages Due October 3**

Your team will have been assigned a policy area topic. Your job for this piece of the assignment is to narrow in on what sort of proposal you are going to pursue within that policy area. For example, if your group was given “higher education policy,” in this piece of the assignment you might pitch the policy idea of a new federal reporting program for sexual assaults on campus. In doing so, you'd tell me a bit about any similar policy that currently exists and how you intend your policy to be different. Maybe you think a current policy needs tweaking, maybe you think a state has a great policy that should go national. Maybe you think of something you don't think has been tried anywhere. Let me know which of these you are up to, and what you think the implications might be for how you will have to think about the politics of proposal and adoption.

### **Policy Background Summary ~5 pages Due October 31**

In order to make an effective case for your policy, you will need to know if/what kinds of similar policies are out there and how they have performed. Place your policy proposal in the existing context. Both academic and policy world (think tank websites, etc.) sources can be helpful sources as you work to identify the relevant policy space. This piece of the project, however, requires you to find **at least 3** academic policy evaluations of your policy or policies somehow similar to it (make the case for the informativeness of the similarity). You will need to summarize those findings and offer an analysis for what they imply for your policy proposal. If this research changes the details of what you wish to propose, that's absolutely fine! Just be sure not to stray from your original purpose and don't abandon your proposal without just cause. In other words: make the case for your proposal adjustment.

### **Policy Friends and Foes ~4 pages Due November 14**

It will also help you to know whether there have been documented difficulties or advantages with getting the type of policy you seek adopted and implemented. This portion of the project asks you to identify stakeholders, both for and against your policy proposal. Who wants this change? Who is indifferent or prefers the ease of the status quo? Who is truly in opposition? Is your issue partisan (or could it be if someone tried to make it so)? Are there private actors that would be likely endorsers? How powerful are they, politically?

What's their reach? Is it national or localized? Is there a place where you'd find more friends than foes? These are the questions you are seeking to answer for this piece of the project.

**Full Proposal Due December 5**

Your final proposal takes the form of a policy brief with a political action plan. You will make a specific policy recommendation, including where and when the policy should be proposed for potential adoption. You need to make the case for your entire plan using the research you have done in the previous pieces of the assignment but you may also add to it. Your proposal will be graded according to its convincingness—which includes how well you've made the case for the policy, itself, how well you've identified a best-chance plan, and how effective your writing is in elucidating both.

**Group Presentation In class December 3 or 5**

Give us the pitch in 15-20 minutes! Pretend we're a smart room of think tank workers and politicians and make us believe in you!