

## Public Policy Paper

Due Date: May 1<sup>st</sup> 2018

### Recommendations for Format of Paper:

A persuasive, analytical essay should contain three main parts; the introductory paragraph, supplementary paragraphs, and a concluding paragraph. Each of these parts and their key components are explained below. Students are required to make use of these guidelines throughout the semester.

I. The Introductory Paragraph The purpose of this paragraph is for the student to indicate to the reader that they have a good understanding of the focus of the topic. This paragraph should include the following information:

- Thesis statement—should be assertive, brief, and to the point. This will enable students to maintain the focus of the paper and write persuasively. What are you going to argue in your paper.
- Brief explanation of any key theme or complex idea contained in the thesis. Make sure you convey to the reader what is meant by the words and phrases in the thesis and demonstrate a thorough understanding of all components of the question.
- A brief listing of the main organizational points that will be used to structure and present the data used to defend the thesis. The emphasis is on organizational not detailed explanation. This list could include the following:
  - application of basic concepts
  - expert opinions
  - categories of evidence (i.e. statistics or socio-economic data)

### II. Supplementary Paragraphs

The number, order, and nature of these paragraphs will be determined by the organizational list in the introductory paragraph. These should provide relevant details that support your thesis statement. Be sure to do a thorough job of linking this information to the thesis. The following are common mistakes that should be avoided:

- quoting the author of the textbook
- use of catch phrases
- use of first person ( in a persuasive paper, this weakens your argument)
- waiting until the end of the paragraph to link points to the thesis (i.e. Therefore, based on the information above, one can see that ...)
- appealing to emotion or answering the question with a question (i.e. How would you like it if this happened to you?)
- utilizing overtly simplistic statements and the idea of single causation (i.e. PAC contributions are a form of bribery that corrupt all members of Congress)
- data-dumping—providing any information without any relevant link to the thesis

### III. Concluding Paragraph

The emphasis of this paragraph is a brief summary delineating the case made in support of the thesis. In research papers, the emphasis of this paragraph is synthesis as well as summary. Students should go one step higher and draw inferences based on the facts presented in their paper. (i.e. “What problem does ‘this’ pose for the future?” or “What possible solutions might alleviate the problem?”)

#### Additional Considerations:

- MLA or Chicago format
- Papers are to be 3500 words in length, typed and double spaced.
- The above word count does not include the title or works cited pages.
- A minimum of ten sources other than the textbook must be consulted and properly cited. eight sources must be from professional publications. It is highly recommended that students make use of as many primary sources as possible. Only 2 online sources.
- If further clarification is needed regarding the paper, make an appointment with your teacher.
  - Be sure to take into consideration in your research:
    - current public opinion on the policy
    - stances of the political parties regarding the policy
    - relevant interest groups that are trying to influence the formulation of the policy and how successful they have been
    - the role of the legislative, executive, and judiciary departments in the formulation of the policy
    - the role of the bureaucracy
- Wherever possible apply current events as evidence to back up your arguments.
- Proofread your paper very carefully—spelling and grammatical errors will detract from your overall grade.
- Provide an electronic copy by the due date to the Dropbox
- MLA or Chicago format please

Put the topic you choose and why you chose it, into dropbox “Policy Topic” by March 27<sup>th</sup>

Put an outline of your paper to dropbox “Rough Draft” April 15<sup>th</sup>

Turn paper into dropbox “Policy Paper” by May 6<sup>th</sup> 11:59:59pm

**This is 20% of your final grade, please take it seriously.**

**Link to ideas on policy paper: <https://www.cornellcollege.edu/politics/courses/allin/262/topics.pdf>**