**GOVT 210 Introduction to Public Policy and Administration**

**Policy Analysis Paper Assignment Guidelines**

1. Guidelines for research and writing policy analysis case study paper.
2. First, the purpose of the policy analysis paper is to identify and define a social or public problem, such as illegal immigration, examine current policy, propose and assess an alternative policy, and form conclusions and implications. (**See Kraft and Furlong, pp. 123-130. See especially Figure 4-1, p. 124, for a brief overview of the policy analysis process.**)
3. Second, it is important to think through the problem, asking questions, doing research, talking with and asking questions of fellow students, friends, your instructor, or others who have some insight or expertise in the content area you are examining.
4. Third, it is very important to think not only about the economic, political, administrative, and social conceptualization of the problem, but you need to consider the ethical, moral, and spiritual implications of the problem and the proposed policy alternative you present.
5. Fourth, the organization, clarity, writing and presentation of your ideas are as important as the content of your essay. We want you to do your very best on this short policy analysis paper.
6. Directions for the policy analysis assignment
7. First, the study of public policy and administration is both a normative study and an applied social science; therefore, students will have the opportunity to research, respond to, and write a policy analysis to a social problem. While this assignment requires students to apply policy analytic tools to a specific social problem, it will also require the student to think about normative concepts, including ethical and spiritual. Kraft and Furlong address the ethical precepts as a means for analyzing social problems. However, you are also expected to incorporate a Christian worldview understanding and application to your analysis of the social problem. (**See the appropriate additional readings provided**).
8. Second, each policy analysis paper should be approximately 1,500 to 2,000 words. You must use a minimum of six to eight quality or “acceptable” sources. (Although there is no maximum number, you should probably not exceed 10 sources.) **Acceptable sources** may include: peer-reviewed academic articles, books, government or non-profit organizations’ reports, or policy analyses from respected think tanks, university research institutes, or other respected research organizations, such as the Pew Research. **Unacceptable sources** include newspaper articles or editorials, blog posts, etc. If you have any questions on a specific source, talk to your instructor or the University writing lab. Include a “References” page. Any acceptable citation style is appropriate.
9. Third, to provide you guidance, we ask that you select one of the following social problems. (You will find them in your Kraft and Furlong text.) The problem is framed in a question, so to fulfill the assignment your policy analysis paper must respond to and answer the question posed.
10. What is an ethical way to increase organ donation/availability? (**Review “Ethical Analysis: The Care of Organ Donation,” page 213 of Kraft and Furlong.**)
11. How can the United States ensure prescription drugs are safe and effective, while also having a speedy approval process? (**Review “Regulation of New Drug Approval” on page 297 of Kraft and Furlong.**)
12. What key ethical elements must inform any holistic change in reforming the U.S.’s healthcare system,” whether the Affordable Care Act or proposed Medicare-for-All? (**Review “Ethical Issues in Health Care” on page 307 of Kraft and Furlong**.)
13. What are the long-term policy consequences of college debt? (**Review “” I’m a Student Debt Slave,”” page 379 of Kraft and Furlong**)
14. Should all developed countries pursue “sustainable development” goals, achievable by 2030? (**Review, “Sustainable Development” on page 401 of Kraft and Furlong**)
15. Should the ability of corporations and companies to donate money in elections be changed? (**Review “Money in Politics” on page 506 of Kraft and Furlong.**)
16. Fourth, organize your paper in the following way:
17. **Part 1: Introduction to and background of public or social problem.** In approximately ONE-TWO pages:
    1. Provide a brief description, overview and background of the specific social problem identified in the question, e.g. organ donation availability, safe and effective prescription drugs, etc.
    2. Provide sufficient and quality evidence to support your argument.
18. **Part 2: Discuss concerns with past and current policies.** In ONE-TWO pages:
    1. Evaluate one or two recent government attempts at addressing the problem.
    2. What are the shortcomings or weaknesses in these previous attempts to address or solve the problem?
    3. Provide sufficient and quality evidence to support your argument.
19. **Part 3: Choose a policy alternative.** Now it is your turn to provide a viable policy alternative that you believe will do a better job of addressing or even solving the problem than previous policies. This is the crux of your paper. So, in approximately TWO-THREE pages I want you to: Outline and discuss the merits of a ONE feasible policy alternative.
    1. In addition to the merits of the alternative having a solid normative and Christian worldview foundation, the merits must also be practical; in other words, the alternative you describe must have the possibility of actually working.
    2. Demonstrate how your alternative will address or solve the problem.
20. **Part 4: Provide conclusion and recommendation.** In approximately ONE-TWO pages:
    * 1. Summarize your analysis, explain again why your alternative will address, manage, or solve the social problem, identify challenges to implementing your policy (e.g. political, administrative, etc.).
      2. Provide specific recommendations for future policy action.

Components and order of the paper

* Title page
* Abstract or summary (approximately 50 words)
* Paper itself (Organize the paper according to the four parts described above. The paper should be 1,500 to 2,000 words (approximately 6-8 pages)
* References or bibliography page (Any acceptable citation method is appropriate, including APA, Chicago, MLA, Turabian.)