

Public Policy Assignment #2

Unit 2 – Political Beliefs & Behaviors

Due on Monday, September 19, 2011

Policy Making System & Your PP Topic

Throughout this semester, you will follow your public policy topic through our study of the Policy Making System. For Unit 2, you will address the following components of the PM System:

- People – Problems, Issues, Concerns
- Linkage Institutions – Parties

Instructions

Title the assignment: PP Assignment #2

Sub-title it: [Your topic name]

Your heading should include your name(s), date and class period.

Type your report. I will not accept a handwritten report.

Neatly attach two polls to the back of your report.

Only submit one report per partnership.

Find a Recent Poll about Your Topic

Spend some time looking for the best polls about your topic. Hopefully, you can find one that has been conducted recently. Do not use one that is more than 9 months old without my permission. For some topics, it may be necessary to go back a year or so.

Use the “Polling Sites” link on the right-side of my website. I provided links to a plethora of polling sites. To find polls for your topic, however, you should first search all three of the following organizations.

- [The Polling Report](#) -- Compilation of recent polls *including surveys on public policy issues*
- [The Gallup Poll](#) – Use the ‘search’ feature to find polls on your topic.
- [The Pew Report](#) - Use the ‘search’ feature to find polls on your topic.

Your search will probably return some partial polls. You will know that is the case when you see only a couple questions from a poll. You should bookmark those, but keep looking for a poll that focused more your particular topic. As you can imagine, some topics will be more likely to have a complete poll. Let me know if you have difficulty with this.

Write a Report

Your report will have the following parts:

- Executive Summary of Findings
- Examination of Methodology

The next page provides a comprehensive list of the necessary components.

Components of PP #2 Report

Executive Summary of Findings

Write a paragraph for this section of your report. Without using bullets or numbers, simply address each of the following questions.

- What were the results of the polls?
- Does anything surprise you about the results?
- What do you think will happen next with your issue? Is one side becoming more successful than the other? Is the issue capturing more attention or less attention?

Examination of Methodology

For this section of your report, simply answer the questions. Use the question number to let me know which one you are answering.

1. Who did the poll?
2. Who paid for the poll and why was it done?
3. How many people were interviewed for the survey?
4. How were those people chosen?
5. What area (nation, state, or region) or what group (teachers, lawyers, Democratic voters, etc.) were these people chosen from?
6. Are the results based on the answers of all the people interviewed?
7. Who should have been interviewed and was not? Or do response rates matter?
8. When was the poll done?
9. How were the interviews conducted?
10. What is the sampling error for the poll results?
11. What questions were asked? (ATTACH POLL, but briefly categorize.)
12. In what order were the questions asked? (Do you agree with the order?)
13. What other polls have been done on this topic? Do they say the same thing? If they are different, why are they different?
14. What additional questions would you have wanted to be included?
15. Do you believe the poll to be a valid measurement of the public's opinion on your issue? Explain.