**Assignment 2: Policy Change Paper**

You have already had the chance to explore the root causes of the issue and the barriers and facilitators to the proposed policy solution in the *Policy Change Fishbone* and *Force Field Analysis* assignment.

This current assignment provides you with the opportunity to develop a plan to advocate for a policy change with policy makers on an issue you identify for the population assigned in your community health course. In ***insert course name,*** you and your group will complete a community needs assessment and work together to identify a specific need that must be addressed though a policy change. It could be a local (city, county), state, or national issue that needs your advocacy to make a change! As a future nurse leader, it’s important to develop your advocacy knowledge and skills and apply them from a policy perspective. If you are still unclear about your policy direction that is most appropriate and timely for your assigned population see the [Policy](https://canvas.txstate.edu/courses/2041254/files/252186459?wrap=1) Advocacy Resource List (link to content created by faculty as this will be specific to your geographical area. See document Policy Advocacy Resource List) to see the important issues that advocacy organizations have identified for specific populations.

This assignment will lead into the development of a [*Policy Pitch-One Pager*](https://canvas.txstate.edu/courses/2041254/assignments/28267198) *and* [*Policy Pitch*](https://canvas.txstate.edu/courses/2041254/assignments/28267200) presentation.

The third person voice should be used when completing this writing assignment. Support your paper with at least three peer-reviewed references.

# Use the Policy Change Writing Assignment template (see document Policy Change Writing Assignment template).

This paper accounts for 15% of your total course grade**.** The length of paper is not to exceed 2000 words, excluding title and reference page.

## For an example Policy Change Paper, please see document, ‘Example Policy Change Paper.’

***One team member will submit the assignment.***

**Components of the Assignment (Content):**

# Introduction and background

* Introduction to the issue identified in the community requiring a policy change. Background on the issue.

# Describe the issue

* What is wrong with the existing services, policy, or law?
* What are the consequences to the community if the issue is not addressed? Specificity is key.

# Describe the policy solution

* What is your policy solution to the issue? Think about your policy change. For clarification on the difference between a policy and a program see document, Difference Between a Policy and a Program.
* How is it unique? Is it feasible? Can you measure it? How? Have other communities used it?
* Create one **SMART** goal you could use to measure the possible policy solution. To learn more about SMART goals use the resources (available at https://www.smartsheet.com/blog/essential-guide-writing-smart-goals).

# Conclusion

* A brief summary of the solution.

**Policy Change Paper**

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| **Criteria** | **Ratings** | | | | | | | | |
| Components of the  Assignment  4 Content  categories listed in the  assignment  description. (70 points) | **Excellent (score range 63-70)**  Content is comprehensive,  accurate, and addresses the assignment. Ideas  are presented in a clear and  understandable manner with  appropriate logic.  Major points are  states clearly and are well supported.  Knowledge of the  topic is good, and addresses course  concepts. Content  and purpose of  the writing is clear. | | **Good (score range 56-62)**  Content is not comprehensive  and/or persuasive. Major points are  addressed but not well supported or have illogical  conclusions.  Knowledge of the  topic is adequate and addresses  course concepts.  Content is  consistent with regard to purpose of assignment and clarity of thought. | | **Fair (score range 53-55)**  Content is incomplete.  Major points are not clear. Content is  inconsistent regarding the  purpose of the assignment and  displays adequate clarity of thought.  Knowledge of  the topic is  inadequate or  does not address course concepts.  Unclear if writer(s)  understand(s) the assignment. | | **Needs Improvement**  **(score range 1-52)**  Awkward writing style, points are  general, factual errors present,  and may stray from topic.  Content missing most elements.  Many major  points not  adequately  addressed. | | **Unsatisfactory (no credit)**  Content has little or nothing to do  with major points of assignment.  Most major  points are not addressed. No  evident structure or transitions  between major  points. Writing  shows lack of comprehensive  of assignment. |
| Organization and Structure  (10 points) | **Excellent (score range 9-10)**  Structures of  paragraphs are clear and  easy to follow.  Paragraphs  built of good  supporting sentences that speak to a clear topic sentence in each paragraph. | **Good (8)** Structure of the paragraphs is  not easy to  follow. Paragraph  transitions need  improvement.  Topic  sentences represent and  adequate. | | **Fair (7)** Organization and lack of structure  detract from the  message or conclusion.  Paragraphs are  disjointed and lack an awareness of transition of  thought. Topic  sentences missing or unclear.  Supporting  sentences too  lengthy/wordy or  repetitive. | | **Needs Improvement (score range 1-**  **6)**  Organization is confusing to the  reader. May lack  proper paragraph  construction, transitions,  organizing support or relevant  information.  Missing headings or subheadings. | | **Unsatisfactory (no credit)**  No apparent organization to  writing. Ideas and writing are  disjointed and  disorganized. It is  difficult to determine the main points of  paragraphs.  Missing headings and subheadings. | |

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| Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling  (10 points) | **Excellent (score range 9-10)**  Rules of grammar, usage and  punctuation  are followed;  spelling is correct. | **Good (8)**  Paper contains few grammatical, punctuation and spelling errors. | | **Fair (7)**  Paper contains several grammatical, punctuation and spelling errors, but the flow of the paper is adequate. | **Needs Improvement (score range 1-**  **6)**  Paper contains numerous  grammatical,  punctuation and  spelling errors that detract from  the flow of the  paper. | **Unsatisfactory (no credit)**  Difficult to  understand due to numerous, significant problems with  grammar,  punctuation and  spelling. Incomplete sentences or  thoughts make it  hard to read the assignment. |
| Writing Style/APA Format  (10 points) | **Excellent (score range 9-10)**  Language is clear and precise.  Writing is  succinct and  flows. Paper follows all  designated  guidelines with  no errors.  Paper is within the word count  as described in  the assignment. | | **Good (8)**  Paper follows most  assignment guidelines with only 1-2 minor errors.  Paper has  correct length. Paper has marginal  formatting  errors. | **Fair (7)**  Language uses some jargon or a  conversational tone. Paper contains 3-4  formatting errors.  Paper is over  word maximum. Paragraphs and or paper length  inadequate.  Follows some format instructions  from assignment  template. | **Needs Improvement (score range 1-**  **6)**  Paper lacks many elements  of correct  formatting. Paper  is over word maximum.  Paragraphs and/or paper length is  adequate in length.  Paragraphs lack  structure and do  not follow  assignment. | **Unsatisfactory (no credit)**  Uses frequent  jargon or conversational tone. Contains  more than 5  sentence fragments or run on sentences. Paper has greater than 5 citation errors. No APA formatting  present concerning font, line spacing,  references or cover  sheet. |