

The Rest of the Semester

1 Group research reports

Group reports should present and analyze the major elements of your candidate's position. By 'analyze', I mean some of the following: describe the most important advantages and disadvantages of your candidate's position, note whether the candidate's statements are specific enough to draw meaningful conclusions, or judge whether what the candidate says is likely to be put into policy. The goal of these reports should be to inform rather than to make a conclusive case one way or the other. You can argue for a conclusion in your shorter papers.

Reports for class discussion should be emailed to me by the following days:

1. Foreign policy: 3 pm on Tuesday, October 21.
2. Health policy: 3 pm on Friday, October 24.

I will allow the groups to revise their reports in the light of our discussions. I will average the grades given to the draft and final versions. The final versions are due on Friday, November 7 by 10 am.

2 Individual research reports

I have changed my mind about this assignment. Since the point of ID-1 is to work on writing, we should have one assignment that produces the best argumentative essay you can write. To achieve that, I need to make the paper shorter and incorporate a draft. I will comment on and grade the draft, you will revise it, and I will average the two grades.

Here is the assignment. Take the topic your research group worked on. Select the most important advantages and disadvantages of your candidate's approach. Describe them for the reader. Then argue for a conclusion: does your candidate have the right approach or not? If you think your candidate is

correct, you will have to explain how the disadvantages are only apparent, can be overcome, or are insignificant. If you think your candidate is not correct, you will have to do something similar for the apparent advantages. These papers should be 1500 words long, about five pages.

Individual reports will be due on the following days:

1. Draft: 10 am on Monday, November 24.
2. Final: 10 am on Wednesday, December 10.

3 Computing the final grades

As I announced earlier, final grades will be based on an equal weighting of the three short papers taken together, the group research report, and your individual research report.

The twist introduced here is that the two research reports incorporate two grades each. I will average grades given to the initial and final drafts of the two research reports.

4 Two minor notes about the syllabus

1. I'm still working on scheduling Paul Menzel, the health expert who will be on campus from November 11-12. We might meet with him during lunch on either of those days.
2. The reading from McCain and Salter on November 18 is incorrect. It should be pages 305-25. The copy on Sakai is correct; I'm just noting this for those of you who have the book.