

POLS 102-02: Current Events Writing Assignment

Length: 3-5 typed, double-spaced pages

Due Date: No later than Tues., April 9, at 6:00 PM

Background: The 2016 presidential election was one of the most bitterly fought in recent memory. The issues in the election (among them, immigration, international trade, health care, gun control, environmental policy, race relations, judicial politics, fighting terrorism) deeply divide the American people. As the presidential administration of Donald J. Trump continues to pursue its policy agenda and as the race for the Democratic Party nomination in the 2020 presidential election heats up, these issues continue to be hotly debated.

Writing Assignment: On the basis of your reading of the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post* or another national news site, select a foreign or domestic policy issue currently debated in the United States. Read and collect news and editorial articles on this issue. Pay careful attention to the ideas expressed in them to get a sense of the conflicting points of view on the issue. After consulting at least three news articles or opinion pieces *from the past year*, write a 3-5-page essay in which you make the strongest case possible for two opposing sides of the issue. Since the hardest part of this assignment is for you to think about arguments you may not be automatically drawn to, a good paper will present both sides of the issue with sensitivity and care. Indeed, an important purpose of this assignment is to foster an enhanced ability to recognize that perspectives besides one's own are valid and that one might have something to learn from them.

Support your arguments with specific evidence from the news articles you have selected. **Be sure to provide parenthetical citations in the body of your essay and a works cited page at the end of your essay to identify the sources you used in completing this writing assignment. Use the MLA (Modern Language Association) citation style.**

The following website has specific information about how to cite according to this style:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_works_cited_periodicals.html

Your final essay should be uploaded to Canvas as a Word document no later than Tues., April 9, at 6:00 PM. Essays submitted past the due date will be penalized for lateness unless an extension for a legitimate reason was granted by me prior to the due date.

Feel free to contact me as you are working on this assignment should you have any questions (rlee@rockford.edu).