

Unit 7 Assignment: Power & Politics in the Project

Due: **Sunday by 11:59 pm at the end of Unit 7.**

"Office politics" are the strategies that people play to gain advantage personally or for a cause they support. The term often has a negative connotation because it refers to strategies people use to seek advantage at the expense of others or the greater good. In this context, it often adversely affects the working environment and relationships within it. Good "office politics", on the other hand, help you promote yourself and your cause, and is more often called networking and stakeholder management.

Perhaps due to the negative connotation, many people see office politics as something to be avoided. But the truth is, to ensure your own success and that of your projects, you must navigate the minefield of office politics. If you deny the 'bad politics' that may be going on around you, and avoid dealing with them, you may needlessly suffer whilst others take unfair advantage. And if you avoid practicing 'good politics', you miss the opportunities to properly further your own interests, those of your team, and your cause.

Your assignment this week is to describe a project you have been associated with that brought both power and politics into play. Who was doing what and were the efforts positive or negative? How about the results? Looking back now, what could have been done differently to ensure a more positive outcome for all the stakeholders involved?

Your final product will be a paper that:

- 2 - 3 double-spaced, APA formatted pages; and
- Includes at least two (2) references to this week's materials.

The requirements for your assignment are:

1. Provide an overview of the topic.
2. Describe a project you have encountered with power and political undermining.
3. Describe the players, their actions, motives, and outcomes.
4. Describe what the effects were on others in the team.
5. Describe what you could have, or should have done that would have made the overall process more positive for everyone involved.
6. Cite at least two (2) resources from this week's materials, as they relate to your responses.

Students: Be sure to read the criteria and review the grading rubric on the next page, by which your paper/project will be evaluated, before you write, and again after you write.

Evaluation Rubric for *Unit 7* Assignment

CRITERIA	Deficient	Proficient	Exemplary	Points Earned
Overview of the Topic	0-13 Points Does not provide an adequate overview or is missing.	14-27 Points Overview is presented, though may not be clear or complete.	28-40 Points Overview is clearly presented including all criteria outlined above.	
Complete Answers	0-11 Points Questions unanswered and/or poorly answered.	12-23 Points All questions answered with 1-2 sentence inputs.	24-35 Points All questions answered with depth and clarity.	
References to Course Materials	0-5 Points Less than 2 references, no assimilation to the questions.	6-10 Points 2 references, minimal assimilation to the questions.	11-15 Points More than 2 references and assimilations show depth and clarity.	
APA Format	0-1 Point Format has errors that impede professional presentation; and/or APA not followed, reference page missing.	2-3 Points APA format and reference page has few errors that do not impede professional presentation.	4-5 Points APA format and reference page is clear, professional, and error free.	
Writing Quality	0-1 Point More than 7 writing errors, to include spelling and punctuation.	2-3 Points More than 4 writing errors, to include spelling and punctuation.	4-5 Points No writing errors.	
Total				100