

Position Paper

Instructions:

Students will complete a civic engagement assignment (Position Statement/Key Issue) based on their recent participation at a local community board meeting, course curriculum and valid sources that support the position, with APA references cited. Submit Position Statement Assignment to the instructor by the due date.

The Position Statement/Key Issue should include all of the following from experiences, ideas, participation, curriculum, resources and the local community board meeting.

Grading: Four Civic Engagement Value Rubric sections assessed as well as correct APA
Diversity of Community & Cultures Analysis of Knowledge;
Civic Communication Civic Action and Reflection

1. Diversity of Community & Cultures (1-2 paragraphs)

- a. Provide an introduction that describes the many facets of the community board meeting you experienced. This can include location; demographics of the participants; demographics of the community; atmosphere of meeting; meeting agenda; how the meeting was conducted; level of participant sharing, cultural aspects, neighborhood dynamics, etc. Importantly, in the final sentences, create a position statement on a key issue for change in this community that surfaced from the community board meeting. (Example: *Lack of a local community health center*)

2. Analysis of Knowledge (1-2 paragraphs)

- a. What were the main issues/concerns described by the community board members on the group's key issue? How/why does the community view these concerns as important and what suggested changes are possible? Examples from the community participants are welcome.
- b. What has been the history of community change about the group's key issue from the past to now? Why does this issue currently exist in this community and how long has it been an issue? What elements of community change that are already in place support or can guide the process for change in this key issue? (Example: If position statement/key issue is about *lack of a local health center*, how health care adapted from it is past to present. What activism, implementation of ideas, laws, policies, and procedures have addressed health issues; how did Medicare/Medicaid, health centers and other health benefits become part of our society?) For this it is suggested valid APA sources be identified that describes the key issue's history and evaluation?

3. Civic Communication (1 paragraph)

- a. Describe key issues. Examples welcomed regarding specific situations. If residents do not identify, why not? Meaning, what has insulated/protected them from this key issue influencing their community/lives/family?

4. Civic Action and Reflection (A List is acceptable)

- a. List the benefits if the key issue is changed/resolved

Example: Need for a local health center may aid in the following:

1. Provides health benefits to the disabled/aging
2. Assessments for child milestones and referrals
3. Behavioral health issues identified, including substance disorders
4. Accessing the health center is not a barrier (transportation not needed)
5. Quality of health for individuals may increase
6. Individuals will not rely on hospitals for their care
7. Medical professionals can track individual's health needs
8. Less communicative illness in community may occur
9. Individuals may live longer
10. Services may allow individuals to remain in their home
11. Benefit may assist individuals needing a higher level of referral care (hospitalization; nursing home care; hospice, rehabilitation, etc.)
12. Community may feel assured that their health needs are important.
13. Families may feel secure that 24/7 health care is truly available
14. Community members may have less sick days per year

2. Summary (1 paragraph)

- a. Summarize and identify a key issue from the knowledge gained at the community board meeting to how it may benefit the community. Reflect on expanded

knowledge of how community change can be a process for this key issue. End with a conclusion statement.

3. Reference (or References if there are multiple)

- a. List, in correct APA format, the sources cited in #2b

www.owl@perdue for APA guidance