

THE REPORT:

Each of you will need to research an approved topic and write a paper on it. The report should be between 2,250 to 2,750 words in length (excluding title page, references, footnotes, appendices, etc.). You may consult the textbook for information, but you cannot rely exclusively on it. In fact you will need at least ten **additional** sources of which only 4 can be “online-only” sources (and **NONE** can be online dictionaries or encyclopedias). If you wish to use more than ten additional sources you may increase the number of online only sources you use but you may not have more than 40% of your total sources come from online-only sites. All other sources must be published in book or journal form. **Please Note:** Sources that are physically printed, but are available online do NOT count as “online-only sources” (e.g. the *Washington Post*, *Broadcasting and Cable*, *Feedback*, etc.). In addition to the 2,250 to 2,750 words of text your report must include a “References” page.

Your paper should be structured as outlined below. Each section of your paper MUST include the distinct headings (listed below) and incorporate the corresponding content. If your paper does not include these headings it will not be reviewed and will be assigned an automatic grade of 119/200 points. This is 59% (F).

- I. What is the core issue at hand? (10 points)
- II. What led to the issue at hand? (20 points)
- III. What were the arguments for and against the issue? (40 points)
- IV. Who are the primary stakeholders and what do they stand to gain or lose? (25 points)
- V. What was the immediate impact of the action(s) taken? (20 points)
- VI. What was the long-term impact of the action(s) taken? (25 points)
- VII. What are your thoughts on the actions taken and the results? (40 points)

GENERAL GRADING INFORMATION:

Content-- Each of the seven sections outlined above will be graded according to points/percentages for each section. (Ex. 8/10=80% for section I, 30/40=75% for section III). The lower the number the more depth/accuracy/thought was needed. Each section will **NOT** be weighted evenly (see point values above).

Please be clear: This paper is your opportunity to demonstrate knowledge and learning as it pertains to a legal issue of your choice. Your paper should not be a compilation of quotes. Do not rely on quotations. Quotes should be used sparingly, if at all. Generally a direct quote is used **ONLY** when the information within the quoted material is so significant that exact wording is necessary. The use of paraphrasing is expected as this demonstrates your ability to absorb ideas and reiterate them in a succinct manner (remember that paraphrased information must also be cited). Excessive use of quotes will adversely affect your grade. ****Make sure you are using your own words and writing in a formal style typical of a term paper (Ex. Avoiding contractions, colloquialisms).**** In general, you will need to review and make changes to your document if your similarity score according to Turnitin exceeds 20%--Check your scores before submitting your document.

Citations and Formatting-- You will be penalized 2 points for each citation/formatting error. These errors do NOT include failure to cite something. Failure to appropriately cite something may constitute plagiarism. This penalty only deals with incorrect/incomplete citations or formatting.

Sources and Page Length Requirements-- Your paper will be penalized by 10% or one letter grade for each missing source. You will also be penalized by 10% or one letter grade for every 50 words under the 2,250-word minimum or over the 2,750-word maximum.

Grammar, Spelling, and Syntax (word choice and pairing)—Your paper will receive a 5% grade reduction after the 10th, a 10% grade reduction after the 15th, and a 15% grade reduction after the 20th error.

CITATIONS AND REFERENCES:

Citations/references for this paper must be done using the **APA Style**. If you are still unclear how to use this citation style, please contact me or the FSU Writing Center for assistance. As a reminder: **EVERYTHING** that is not **YOUR** own thoughts/opinions must be cited whether it is a direct quote or not. Please refer to the “Plagiarism” section within the “Start Here” tab on the course Canvas site for more clarification. Do NOT assume that something is “common knowledge”. Cite it. Opinions are fine, in some places, but you must NOT present your OPINIONS as FACT. If you present an idea as FACT, it must be supported. As a general rule a citation is placed immediately following the information being cited. The only exception to this is when an

entire paragraph's information is from the same source. In this case a citation needs to be placed only at the end of that paragraph. Again, refer to the APA Style guidelines for specific citation and formatting rules. Be sure to contact me if you have any questions regarding these rules or what should or should not be cited. It is **EXTREMELY** important that you understand them and follow them. Your grade will suffer severely if you do not. Failure to properly cite information in a paper can be viewed as **PLAGIARISM** and will be treated as such. Consult the University's Policy Statements publication available in printed form or online at <http://www.frostburg.edu/admin/policies/fsupolicy/policies.htm>).

Again, if you are having difficulty deciding what information to use or not use, if you are unclear about proper citations (how or what to cite), or if you have any questions about the expectations of any part of this assignment, please contact me immediately.

Reminder-- You must submit this assignment to the correct area on Canvas. Failure to submit to Canvas or to the correct Canvas section will be considered an incomplete submission. Until and unless the assignment is submitted to the correct Canvas section it will not be graded (remember the course policies on late submissions).

Please Note-- You should get in the habit of checking Canvas to be sure the assignment was submitted correctly. If it is not there you have likely done something wrong. In this case, try again and/or contact the FSU Help Desk for further assistance.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

1) Your final paper must...

- be double spaced
- use Times New Roman font
- use 12 point type
- have 1" margins at the top, bottom, left, and right

2) You must...

- Submit, as one complete file, including cover page, reference page, appendices, etc. to the Canvas.

Submit to Canvas by 11 PM on the day of presentation.

3) Your final paper should include a title page with the following information:

- Your name
- Due date
- Title of paper