

Public Policy Agendas Meet Art

In the extended republic of the United States, and among the great variety of interests, parties, and sects, which it embraces, a coalition of a majority of the whole society could seldom take place on any other principles than those of justice and the general good. ---- Federalist No. 51

Setting the political agenda depends on many factors: shared political values, the longstanding traditions of government, the impact of events such as wars or depressions, and the beliefs of those that are considered the political elite. Often citizens don't stop to think about what government is doing, unless it directly affects them. Increasing safety precautions for airlines, allowing fewer restrictions on offshore oil drilling to decrease the cost of gasoline, and raising taxes to offset the cost of a war are all considerations that may cause one to pause and reflect on the individual consequences of the enactment of the policy. However, for the most part, few citizens choose to intently focus on policies relating to the environment, foreign affairs, the economy, or social welfare.

GOAL:

Investigate a variety of public policy issues from both sides of the aisle to better inform the sculpture students on the topics from which they will create wire armatures.

Driving Question:

How can art reflect and inform the public about policy-making agendas?

Group Assignment:

- Brainstorm a topic for EACH of the 4 categories (environmental, social welfare, economic, and foreign policy) that relate to EACH the 4 types of public policy (majoritarian, interest group, client, and entrepreneurial). This means you will have a total of 16 issues! **NOTE: A minimum of 4 topics should specifically relate to PA public policy**
- Investigate EACH of the 16 issues from BOTH the liberal and conservative sides.
- Note who BENEFITS and who pays the COST in each topic.
- Post your detailed information on the created wiki. Follow the guidelines for creating pages in a wiki to ensure uniformity and ease of navigation.
- Note the timeline of public policy making agenda for the researched topics over the last 25 years. (You may wish to go farther back than this.)
- Collaborate with Miss Wolfgang's sculpture class to ensure they understand the topics. (face-to-face interaction)
- Choose one topic to write actual legislation regarding changes in public policy that you would like to see occur. Please include a detailed summary of which committee the bill would be referred to and why, as well as a history of why the bill is needed. This legislation will be presented to the appropriate legislator (PA or US).

Individual Assignment:

- Discussion board interaction on the wiki with Miss Wolfgang's sculpture class. You must post a minimum of **three** times to either pose a question or answer one.
- Comment on the Voicethread that will be created to house photos of the final sculptures. These comments must be a summary of the public policy agenda and the research that was completed during the group phase of the project.
- **Four** reflective Edmodo posts on the process of completing this assignment. What are you learning, what do you still need?
- Choose your *Diigo* articles for the next two weeks to relate to one of the topics. One week must portray the liberal side and one week must portray the conservative side. Be prepared to interact in a discussion via *Diigo* with Miss Wolfgang's class.

PLEASE NOTE: We are investigating possible display areas for the art, with the accompanying political policy agendas. We are waiting to hear back from the Capitol Building☺



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Art Meets Public Policy Rubric

	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	Total
Basic Research	Minimal explanation of the public policies research.	Basic explanation of the public policies researched.	Public policies researched were thorough.	Public policies researched were very detailed and left the reader with few to no questions.	
Costs Research	Several of the explanations given on who would pay the costs of each policy enactment are incorrect.	Basic overview given on who would pay the costs of each policy enactment.	Explanation given on who would pay the costs of each policy enactment.	Detailed explanation given on who would pay the costs of each policy enactment.	
Benefits Research	Several of the explanations given on who would reap the benefits of each policy enactment are incorrect.	Basic overview given on who would reap the benefits of each policy enactment.	Explanation given on who would reap the benefits of each policy enactment.	Detailed explanation given on who would reap the benefits of each policy enactment.	
Feedback on Wiki	Basic feedback provided that did not add to the improvement of the art piece.	Feedback provided for some improvement of the art piece.	Feedback provided allowed the sculpture student to improve their art piece.	Detailed feedback provided which directly improved the art piece.	
VoiceThread Comments	Little analysis of the wire armature.	Basic analysis of the wire armature.	Detailed analysis of the wire armature.	Detailed analysis of the armature that shows insight.	
Legislation	Legislation did not reflect a true need for a change in public policy.	Legislation reflected a need for a change in public policy, but wasn't fully justified.	Legislation reflected a need for change in public policy.	Legislation reflected a need for change in public policy, was fully justified, and convinced the reader.	
Committee Designation	Committee of choice was not justified.	Committee of choice was justified, but not the appropriate choice.	Committee of choice was justified and the appropriate choice.	Committee of choice was justified, the appropriate choice, and an alternate committee was examined.	
Edmodo Reflection	Little reflection evident of an increase in the learning process.	Reflection evident, but limited in the scope of increasing the learning process.	Reflection evident and there is evidence of an increase in the learning process.	Reflection process promoted a valuable increase in the learning process.	
Spelling and Grammar	More than 10 errors.	Between 5 and 10 errors.	Between 1 and 5 errors.	Error free.	

TOTAL POINTS EARNED: _____/72

