

PLS 135: U.S. Government & Politics Summer Assignment 2022



Course: DE United States Government / PLS 135

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Overview: Welcome to the class! The purpose of this assignment is to prepare students who are entering DE U.S. Government / PLS 135 for the 2022-2023 school year. This assignment will serve as a preview and a practice opportunity for the types of reading, writing, and critical thinking assignments that you will be responsible for during this course. This will count as an essay grade for MP1.

Due Date: The paper will be due by 11:59 PM on Monday, September 12th. The paper should be uploaded to the appropriate assignment on NOVA Canvas as a Microsoft Word document.

Structure: Your assignment will be a 4 page essay. The essay should follow [Chicago style](#) formatting (including cover page, footnotes, etc.) and be 12-point font, Times New Roman, double spaced with 1 inch margins. You will need to complete the two assigned readings and then create a thesis and logical argument that answers the prompt below.

Prompts:

- What are the issues around collective action problems and the “solutions” to them as seen in the Olsen and Mansbridge articles?
- What examples (not provided in the readings) in the political and/or social world could best relate?

Essentially, your paper should have two main sections. The first section should synthesize the ideas from the two articles. The second section should include at least one example of these problems and solutions playing out in the real world. Both should be incorporated into a clear, one sentence thesis statement.

Readings:

- From *The Logic of Collective Action* by Olsen
- [What is Political Science For?](#) By Jane Mansbridge

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Rubric:

Criteria	A (20-18)	B (17-16)	C (15-14)	D (13-12)	E (11-10)
Introduction and Thesis	<p>Introduction clearly situates the reader in the context of the topic.</p> <p>Thesis is easily identifiable, clear, concise, and takes a strong position on the topic or prompt</p>	<p>Introduction includes needed information to understand the topic.</p> <p>Thesis is clear and appropriate to the topic or prompt</p>	<p>Introduction includes information on the topic but lacks detail or relevance.</p> <p>Thesis is included, but may be difficult to identify, unclear or not appropriate to the topic or prompt</p>	<p>Introduction inadequately gives the reader background or context.</p> <p>Thesis is challenging to find, unclear and not related to the topic or prompt</p>	<p>Introduction is not included or does not include any relevant background for the reader.</p> <p>Thesis is unidentifiable or entirely unrelated to topic or prompt</p>
Evidence	<p>Appropriate, reliable and varied sources are presented. Includes secondary sources when necessary. All evidence is properly and seamlessly integrated into paper.</p>	<p>Appropriate sources are included, including a mix of primary and secondary when needed. Acceptable integration of evidence into paper.</p>	<p>Chosen evidence includes some questionable sources or an abundance of secondary sources. Some issues with integration into paper.</p>	<p>Chosen evidence overall lacks reliability or academic quality. Overuse of secondary sources or direct quotes. Confusing integration into paper</p>	<p>Evidence is unrelated and inappropriate for the topic. Sources not integrated into paper.</p>
Argumentation	<p>All ideas clearly stem from the thesis. Arguments presented show clear and logical justifications for that thesis. Counter-arguments are acknowledged and convincingly addressed (if necessary)</p>	<p>All ideas and arguments presented generally support and show justification for the thesis. Acknowledges counter-arguments as necessary.</p>	<p>Most of the ideas and arguments presented show support and justification for the thesis, but insufficient for some. Some may be repetitive, less convincing or show a disconnect to the thesis</p>	<p>Most of the ideas and arguments presented do not show support and justification for the thesis</p>	<p>Ideas and arguments presented in paper do not connect to or attempt to show support or justification for the thesis</p>
Organization	<p>Entirety of paper is structured to support the thesis. Arguments and paragraphs are ordered in a logical and coherent way. Topic sentences and sentence structure enhance each paragraph's</p>	<p>Paper is generally structured to support the thesis. Paragraphs and sentences and appropriately ordered to enhance understanding. Includes basic transitions and progressions.</p>	<p>Paper includes some instances of disorganization in terms of paragraph structure and organization, sentence organization and/or transitions and general progression that negatively</p>	<p>Paper includes many instances of disorganization in terms of paragraph structure and organization, sentence organization and/or transitions and general progression that greatly impact</p>	<p>Paper is missing all evidence of structure and organizations related to paragraphs and sentences. Organization does nothing to help support evidence, arguments or thesis.</p>

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	understanding. Exceptionally clear transitions and progression throughout paper.		impact the overall argument of the paper.	the overall argument of the paper	
Mechanics	No spelling, grammar, punctuation, or citation errors. Exceptional display of syntax. Meets page length	Minor issues of spelling, grammar, punctuation or citation that do not impact the ability to read or comprehend. Meets page length	Several issues of spelling, grammar, punctuation for citation that begin to distract from comprehension. Issues may show clear evidence editing/proofreading was not thorough. Meets page length	Many issues of spelling, grammar, punctuation for citation that distract from comprehension for the majority of the paper. Clear evidence editing/proofreading was not thorough. Slightly under page length.	Spelling, grammar, punctuation for citation make overall comprehension nearly impossible. No evidence of editing/proofreading. Significantly under page length

Questions to reflect on for each Criteria:

- Introduction and Thesis
 - Am I placing my reader in the context of the topic and presenting a clear, thoughtful, and arguable thesis statement?
- Evidence
 - Am I presenting reliable, appropriate evidence that is incorporated properly?
- Argumentation
 - Am I making logical, compelling, and appropriate arguments to defend my thesis?
- Organization
 - Am I organizing and structuring my paper (paragraphs, sentences, etc.) in a way that enhances my argument and shows logical thought?
- Mechanics
 - Am I presenting a paper that is free of any mechanical errors that could distract from an overall understanding of the topic or argument (including cover page, footnotes, and bibliography)?