

Each of you will be placed in a group of 5 students. As a group, you will produce a position paper on a bill being considered by the Louisiana Legislature. The Legislature will be in session from April 12th to June 10th. In March, your group will be assigned its bill. Each group must produce a position paper that includes the following:

- 1) Description of the bill
- 2) Description of the policy problem the bill is addressing
- 3) Why does this legislator care about this problem?
- 4) Is this problem specific to Louisiana or are other states experiencing (have experienced) the problem? What actions have they taken? Is this the first time the legislature has considered action on this problem? If not, give a brief history of previous attempts to deal with the problem.
- 5) What is the "treatment" or mechanism by which the legislation will fix the problem?
- 6) Does your group think this is a good solution? If there is dissent among members, each side should present its argument.
- 7) Executive Summary (one page) that addresses each of the aforementioned topics
- 8) Power point presentation for the class
- 9) The position paper and presentation are worth 80 points. The paper should be typed, double spaced using 12 Times New Roman font and be between 10 and 15 pages in length with one inch margins. Graphs and charts should be used when possible to convey information.

Grading Scale

579-600 A+	519-536 B+	459-476 C+	399-416 D+	356 and below F
555-578 A	495-518 B	435-458 C	381-398 D	
537-554 A-	477-494 B-	417-434 C-	357-380 D-	

Honors Option

For honors students who would like to take the course for Honors Credit, please see me for a book assignment. You will produce a 7-10 page summary of the book's major findings and do a video book presentation for the class that will be uploaded to the class Moodle page.

Section One: Understanding Poverty

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January 31: Links between poverty and brain development and adverse childhood experiences Links between hoov(e).