

Policy Brief (30%)

The purpose of this assignment is to develop a policy brief that critically analyzes a health issue and/or a health-related policy. You may also consider the role that a specific informatics or technology solution plays in addressing, affecting, or improving your chosen health issue / policy.

The Deliverable

Assume that the policy brief document is to be delivered to a politician at his/her request in order to inform a policy decision or legislation. There is not a standard format for writing a policy brief, but below are some resources that provide guidelines on what to include in a policy brief. Feel free to make the policy brief creative and professional in terms of formatting and charts. Part of the goal of this exercise is to get you comfortable with and/or maximize the use of tools such as Microsoft Word (or equivalent).

- <https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/policy-briefs/>
- https://www.courses.psu.edu/hpa/hpa301_fre1/IBInstructions_fa02.PDF
- Policy Brief examples can be found at
 - <https://www.healthaffairs.org/briefs>
 - <http://www.rwjf.org/en/search-results.html?u=&k=policy+Briefs>

The policy brief must be a **maximum of 4 (four) pages** including charts, graphs and references. The document must describe your issue that could be addressed through policy actions (i.e., your recommendations). Include background information (i.e., problem, policy, stakeholders, organizations and/or individuals involved), the political landscape (i.e., is it politically charged/divisive), and the economic (i.e., costs) and social (i.e., ethic or moral concerns, equity) context. Recommendation(s) should also consider social acceptability and political feasibility. Your analysis must be supported by **at least 5 citations** from respectable sources (reviewed literature must be cited appropriately using AMA style). Pay attention to formatting, and check spelling and grammar in the document prior to submission (PDF only).

General writing assistance is available for students through the Stony Brook Writing Center. This is a free resource available to all Stony Brook students regardless of the type of assignment or deliverable (see their web site to understand their specific writing assistance services). More information on the Writing Center is available at <https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/writingcenter>.

Presentation

Towards the end of the course, each student will present his/her policy brief to the rest of the class. Each presentation will last no more than 7 minutes, comprising of a maximum 5-minute presentation, and a maximum 2-minute Q&A session. You may use presentation tools or other props (e.g., PowerPoint) to present your policy brief, but this is not required.