White Paper Assignment

The White Paper assignment is an organizational tool for you to be able to identify a problem, lines of research, and potential solutions.  It is an open format paper, meaning I do not expect you to have a specific format. You do not need headings for different sections, but you may find it easier to write with headings such as "Introduction", "Problem", "Background", "Potential Solutions". Be sure to identify where you can go to research and possible paradigms under which your proposal will fall.  You must cover the Six P’s (Patron, Problem, Population, Paradigm, Plan, Price). Remember the paradigm is like an umbrella, it covers the specific fields through which you will gather information and models of success.  The paradigm is not the journal in which you have found information, but in which field those journals are found.  For instance, if you are researching ways to reduce crime, you would potentially look in Criminal Justice publications or Psychology journals.

Your paper must identify a specific problem and identify specific barriers to solving that problem. An example is the way in which No Kid Hungry fills a specific niche in the process of getting food to hungry children.

You should have some idea of how you will specifically work to solve this problem. If you want to address violence in schools, it is not enough to say that you will work with guidance counselors to develop a program. You must have an idea of the program already developed. Will you combat stress in the classroom by adding a program designed to reduce stress, like yoga or afterschool exercise programs? Will you try to increase vaccinations by placing information placards in doctors’ offices?

Price can be a ballpark figure, but it must be a reasonable figure, nonetheless. You should start looking up prices for various parts of your plan, to get a rough estimate of what this should cost. The cost should be in line with the patron. That is, if you tell me that your patron is The Middlesex BOE, and you tell me the project you propose will cost $1.2M, I will tell you that the price is not in line with the Patron. No BOE has that much to spend on a new, untested, program.

The paper must be in 12-pt, Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins, and should be single-spaced, 1-2 pages (ideally), but up to 3 pages.

Rubric

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| Question | +3 | +2 | +1 |
| Does the paper clearly identify the issue at hand, both broadly and specifically? | The paper clearly identifies a problem in both broad and specific ways | The paper identifies a broad problem, but not a specific barrier. | The paper does not really identify a problem. |
| Does the paper identify a patron and a budget in line with that patron? | The paper identifies a patron and suggests a budget in line with that patron. | The paper identifies a patron, but the budget is not in line with that patron. | The paper does not really suggest a patron or it does not give a price. |
| Does the paper outline a plan? | The paper identifies a plan with some specific details | The paper suggests a plan, but it light on details. | The paper does not suggest a specific plan. |
| Does the paper identify a specific population? | The paper identifies a specific population (e.g. Middle-school students at Fockenberg Elementary) | The paper identifies a general population (e.g. Middle-schoolers) | The paper does not really identify a population. |
| Does the paper identify a paradigm under which this topic falls? | The paper identifies a proper paradigm under which the project falls. | The paper tries to identify a paradigm | The paper does not identify or address paradigm. |