

Draft Introduction Section

PA 604: Methods of Analysis in Public and Urban Affairs (Fall 2022)

15 points

Due: September 23, 2022

Overview:

In this assignment, you'll be completing a draft version of your introduction section for your final proposal.

This assignment is designed to be edited, improved, and included as part of your final proposal. Since this assignment will be submitted for feedback, suggestions, and comments from me, you'll need to complete the assignment Google Docs, and follow [these video instructions](#) to submit your Doc on Canvas¹.

Requirements

Substance (10 pts)

- The introduction section should be no more than one (1) page double-spaced. In fact, this section should only be about 3–6 sentences long.
- The introduction should include these 3 main components (*brief examples below each item in red*):
 1. A **general background statement** about the relationship between the variables
“*Social movements engage in various sorts of action to achieve their goals.*”
 2. A **reason (or theory)** for why that relationship works
“*For example, research has shown that social movements can impact policy*”

¹You must share the document by granting editing permissions to anyone with the link, and copy and paste the sharing URL into Canvas

change by catching the attention of policy-makers and putting pressure on political officials to respond with policy concessions (Amenta 2006)."

3. A **coherent research question**, which can be rephrased as a statement. This can also include an example or two.

"Variation in social movement protest activity influences variation in educational policy because it raises politicians' awareness of the issue, and pressures them to appease movement demands in exchange for political support by the movement's coalition of voters."

Format & Clarity (5 pts)

- 12-point font
- 1-inch margins on all sides
- First and Last Name on the first line of the header
- "Introduction" as the title, centered as the second line of your header or the first line of the paper
- Ensure that you're citations follow either [ASA](#) or [APA](#) format
- Clear grammar, punctuation, and flow of your writing

Grading

You will be graded on 1) the clarity and format of your writing (including the title, name, font, margins, grammar, flow, etc), as well as 2) the presence and clarity of the 3 main components listed above.

Example 1

People participate in social movement activity for various reasons. For some, a shared sense of identity makes them feel connected to a social movement (Corrigall-Brown et al. 2009; Futrell and Simi 2004), for others, being available for participation increases their likelihood of participation (McAdam 1986). Who you know, or the ties you have to people in your social network might be an important yet overlooked factor for understanding participation (Beyerlein and Hipp 2006). For example, a person might be more likely to engage in civil disobedience if they know someone who is either participating, has heard about, or even organized the event, who has informed them about the event. Understanding the role of political ties to others might shed light on an unexplored area in the study of social movement participation.

Example 2

United States parks are recreational areas that can contribute to our physical and psychological well-being (Tate 2018). Yet, adequate funding for operations and maintenance, programs, capital expenditures, and land acquisition pose significant challenges for parks (Walls 2009). Public restrooms available in parks are impacted by these budget worries as well. Public restrooms are also being closed in many American states due to real or perceived drug-use or sexual activity (Brubaker and McCreary, 2007). This problem is exacerbated by bad design, poor maintenance and management, unequal distribution as well as crime. These public restroom closures impact everyone who utilizes public park spaces, yet women, children, people with disabilities, and the elderly are particularly hit the hardest (Greed 2003). Any decline in public restrooms in public parks can discourage specific communities from visiting or limit the length of their visit. Therefore, studying the presence or disappearance of quality public restrooms in a park might shed light on park visitation.

Example 3

The United States incarcerates more people per capita than any other country in the world. While the United States is only home to 5 percent of the world's population, it houses 25 percent of the world's prisoners equating to 2.2 million people behind bars (Collier, 2014). According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, 41 percent of American prisoners do not have their high school diploma or GED compared to only 18 percent in the general population (Harlow, 2003). Additionally, nineteen percent of adult inmates are illiterate, compared to our national adult illiteracy rate of four percent (Karpowitz and Kenner, p.4). Research suggests that having a high school diploma is no longer enough to qualify a candidate for employment in many occupations (Edwin, 2018). While many factors impact recidivism rates, research suggests that education is one of the most effective deterrents for recidivism and increasing post-release employment opportunities (Karpowitz & Kenner, RAND, Steurer & Smith, 2003). Examining the effect of carceral education, and specifically differences in types of carceral education, on employment outcomes, is important in the quest for limiting the revolving door of incarceration.

Example 4

The growing shift to decolonize museums in the United States has seen a push in the last thirty years due to the passing of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA). In that time, scholars have debated the validity of repatriating artifacts as well as critique the process laid out by NAGPRA and ensuing related congressional acts (Spude & Scott, 2013; Stoffle & Evans, 1994). Issues regarding repatriation resource constraints such as funding staff to catalogue and organize the necessary artifacts (Livesay, 1992) and institutional perspectives on the importance invested within artifacts such as their role in the archaeological record may lead to varied repatriation outcomes. Yet, why are some museums more proactive in the repatriation of artifacts than others? While many scholars draw on case studies of NAGPRA repatriation requests to illustrate museums' adherence or resistance, the language used in museums' mission statements provide an alternative perspective to investigate compliance with NAGPRA repatriation requests.

Example 5

Transit-oriented development (TOD), a type of urban development that places dense, mixed-use development near transit, has emerged as a significant planning tool for reducing vehicle-miles travelled and greenhouse gas emissions. This development concept aims to promote the use of public transportation, while also functioning as a form of self-selection for residents with a preference for transit-oriented living (Cervero 2007). The success of the strategy, however, depends on a variety of factors. TOD parking supply and pricing policy, in particular, play an important role in supporting transit ridership objectives (Wilson 2005), including increased ridership and a more sustainable transportation mode share. Understanding the connection between parking policy, TOD, and transit ridership is critical to the study of transportation planning.