

MODEL PARLIAMENT INSTRUCTIONS

THE CANADIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY, AUTUMN 2018

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Assignment Part 1: Model Parliament Policy Proposal (max 750 words)

Please write a policy proposal about SOCIAL ISSUES (e.g., poverty, inequality, human rights, discrimination measures, aboriginal issues, multiculturalism, immigration, etc.) and defend its merits. Your memo should have two parts:

1. What policy do you propose? Explain how your policy works (e.g., if I propose housing the homeless, I should explain how to determine the allocation of funds across cities, whether the federal government or cities build the houses, what qualifies as 'homeless' etc.)
2. Define what "ends" (i.e., what objective) your policy is meant to attain. Explain why is your policy the best policy to attain these ends (e.g., given current laws or obvious alternate approaches to solving the problem, how will your law do the MOST to improve the lives of the people it seeks to help.... if I propose housing the homeless, then I should argue against an obvious alternative such as cutting the homeless a cheque)

In sum, you should be able to anticipate arguments made against your policy and provide a reasoned defence, citing empirics. Also, because many roads can lead to the same destination, you should explain why your proposed policy is best relative the status quo and/or any obvious alternate policies (e.g., if you want to propose a minimum wage hike in order to alleviate poverty, then say why a free market solution or universal basic income is not as efficient at attaining this outcome).

Template

1. Policy Proposed: explain the policy you wish to enact and how it will work
2. Policy Justification: explain what your policy will accomplish and why it is the best way to accomplish these ends
3. Policy Defense: defend against alternate policies or major anticipated critiques

Assignment Part 2: Participate in Party Meetings

48 hours prior to the assigned date, please pick a party that you would like to represent and overlaps ideologically with your proposed bill. Then submit the aforementioned memo (Part 1) to said Party's Discussion forum on Carmen. Do not hesitate to ask if you need guidance!

On the assigned date, please arrive at class prepared to join your party and partake in its policy forums and leadership election! Don't worry if your not yet sure how that works – while you will get lots of time to debate amongst party members, I'll be there to take you step-by-step through what a Canadian party meeting looks like. Most crucially, you will each be a party member, responsible for electing leadership and voting on 3 policies (as proposed in fellow party member's memos).

Assignment Part 3: Participate in Model Parliament

On the assigned date, please arrive at class prepared to defend your chosen party! Note that I will walk us through the Parliamentary format – just as takes place every year in Ottawa, for every bill attempted to be turned into law.

Attend and actively participate in our two Model Parliaments. Student's are to show the ability to present policy, including defence against counter-arguments. Knowledge of public economics and/or of Canadian social issues should be used. Students with justified absence (documentation required) will need to complete an alternate assignment (750 word essay responding to a policy proposal).

Note: in debate, you should be able to anticipate arguments made against your policy and provide a reasoned defence, citing relevant empirics.