

## POL 2 Section Memo 2– Assessing the Effectiveness of Protest Movements

Due by **Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 at 11:59 pm** on Canvas

### Overview

Mass mobilization plays a critical role in contemporary politics, allowing citizens to collectively voice their demands and influence social, political, and economic changes. Such movements often arise in response to specific grievances or important events and employ a variety of strategies including peaceful protests, sit-ins, strikes, social media campaigns, and sometimes civil disobedience. By creating a sense of urgency and demonstrating widespread support, these movements aim to pressure governments to respond to their demands. However, the effectiveness of protest movements varies widely.

**In this memo, you will analyze and assess the effectiveness of a protest movement of your choice. Your analysis should consider the movement's goals, strategies, outcomes, and long-term impact.**

### Instructions

- First, choose **one** of the following protest movements (i.e., choose a specific protest, rather than the broader category it is listed under).
  - Democracy and Political Reforms
    - Hong Kong Protests (2019-2020)
    - Belarusian Protests (2020-Present)
    - Myanmar Protests (2021-Present)
    - Catalonia Independence Movement (2017)
    - Umbrella Movement (2014)
    - Sudanese Revolution (2018-2019)
  - Anti-Government and Corruption
    - Romanian Protests (2017-2019)
    - Puerto Rico Protests (2019)
  - Climate Action and Environmental Protection
    - Friday for Future (2018-present)
  - Economic and Social Inequality
    - Yellow Vests Movement (Gilets Jaunes) (2018-present)
    - Chilean Protests (Estallido Social) (2019-2020)
    - Lebanon Protests (2019-2020)
    - Greece Anti-Austerity Protests (2010s)
  - Women's Rights and Gender Equality
    - Ni Una Menos (2015-present)
    - Polish Abortion Protests (2020)
  - Agriculture Policies
    - Farmer's Protests in India (2020-2021)
    - Dutch Farmers' Protests (2019-present)
    - German Farmers' Protests (2019-present)

- Then, write an essay analyzing your chosen protest movement using the following structure as your guide...

### **Essay Structure to Follow**

\*% s are recommendations for approximately how much of your essay should be devoted to each section

**Section 1: Introduction (15%; max 1 paragraph).** Start by introducing the protest movement you have chosen and provide a brief overview that addresses the following questions:

- What is the main issue or cause that the movement is trying to address?
- What sparked the protest? Was it an action by the government or something else?
- Is this protest restricted to a country? If so, which one?
- How long did the protest last and is it still going on today?

**Section 2: Analysis of Strategies (30%).** This is where you should discuss *specific* strategies employed by the movement and how protestors mobilized support. What tactics did the protestors use? How did they mobilize support?

- Consider factors such as the use of social media, public demonstrations, civil disobedience, violence, and other methods.
- Provide specific examples of certain strategies being used

**Section 3: Evaluation of Outcomes (40%).** This is where you should make a clear argument assessing the effectiveness of the movement. Did it achieve its stated goals? Were there any significant policy changes or reforms that resulted?

- Consider both short-term and long-term impacts
- Be sure to evaluate both the strengths of the movement as well as its weaknesses
- Note: You may want to consider what it means for a protest to be “effective” and explain your criteria – e.g., what would make a protest “effective”?

**Section 4: Conclusion/Impact and Legacy (15%).** Instead of a “standard” conclusion, you should conclude by discussing the broader impact and legacy of the movement. Your discussion should address the following questions:

- How has it changed life in the country and/or globally?
- How has it influenced other social or political movements?
- What lessons might be learned from its successes or failures?

## Guidelines

1. The memo should be a **full 2pgs**, double-spaced, standard 10-12pt font with 1" margins.
  - a. Bibliography is not included in this page count
2. The memo should be logically and coherently organized, and the writing should be clear, concise, and free of grammatical errors.
3. **Use both in-text (parenthetical or footnotes) AND a separate reference page**
4. Any reference to an outside source **must** be properly cited using a consistent citation style, including a separate list of references. Additionally, all submissions are filtered through TurnItIn's plagiarism and AI detector. See this link for citation guidance: <https://ossja.ucdavis.edu/avoiding-plagiarism-mastering-art-scholarship>.
  - a. Chicago or American Political Science Association style are recommended, but you are welcome to choose whichever style you prefer.
  - b. For Chicago style - [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/chicago\\_manual\\_17th\\_edition/cmos\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/web\\_sources.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/chicago_manual_17th_edition/cmos_formatting_and_style_guide/web_sources.html)
  - c. For APSA style - <https://connect.apsanet.org/stylemanual/sample-page/paranthesical-citations/>
5. All outside information should come from reputable, high-quality sources. Blogs, substacks, thinktanks, Wikipedia, cable news, random websites, and YouTube clips are not considered appropriate. If you have questions about a particular source, please ask me ahead of time. Here are some sources to get you started:
  - Reputable news sources for recent developments - <https://www.reuters.com/>, <https://www.bbc.com/>, <https://apnews.com/>, <https://www.nytimes.com/>, <https://www.aljazeera.com/>, <https://www.cfr.org/>
  - Academic journal articles or books - <https://www.jstor.org/>, <https://library.ucdavis.edu/>
  - Reports from international watchdogs such as Freedom House, V-Dem, or the Human Rights Watch
6. **The memo is due no later than Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at midnight.** It must be submitted online, as either a PDF or MS Word docx file, via the Canvas assignment for 'Second Memo'. I cannot accept hard copies, emailed papers, links to cloud-based documents, '.pages' file extensions, scanned or image files, or other file types. You are welcome to submit your paper as far in advance of the deadline as you'd like.

## Tips

- Provide specific, thoughtfully chosen examples to strengthen your arguments, and make sure examples fit the broader point you are making
- Reflect on the broader implications of the movement beyond its immediate context
- Make a clear argument about the effectiveness of the movement.
  - o It is okay to have a "mixed" answer, but it should be clear in what ways it was successful and in what ways it wasn't