

10. Instructions for Public Policy Position Paper

Your position paper should be 3-5 pages, double-spaced. You will be presenting this paper to the legislator, government committee, commission or other decision-making body that you hope to influence with the findings of your research. You should use persuasive writing to construct an effective argument that the decision-maker will find intellectually and emotionally compelling enough to take action on it. You will need to reference the community organizations you have identified as experts/resources on the issue, and make a clear, thorough and persuasive argument for the public policy position and change you are advocating, based on a summation of your data findings.

In this paper it is critical that you consider the arguments of the opposition in order to frame your argument in such a way that it will adequately address those who oppose your position. Be careful not to reiterate their arguments in such a way that you lose focus on your own position; rather use them as reference points for your argument to show the opposing position/policy as inaccurate or insufficient to address the problem you researched. The paper should be succinct, clear about the action that needs to be taken, and directly targeted to your decision-maker in a formal writing style.