

Write an Arts Policy Advocacy Brief

For this assignment, you will write an arts policy advocacy brief addressed to the governor of your state. Keep in mind that this assignment is not simply a matter of following instructions. You will need to do some research and some deep thinking, prior to writing, to accomplish the assignment objectives and to write an effective policy brief.

The length of this assignment is quite strict. *Do not* write more than two pages. That means that organization of your ideas, clarity in writing and succinct articulation of issues are all very important. **One to one-and-a-half pages is the best length for the assignment.**

Please note: An advocacy brief is a *persuasive* piece of writing. You must put yourself in the point of view of the person it is addressed to. What would persuade *that* person? This requires some research about the decision-maker’s position on issues he/she has voted on or supported in the past. What that means is that a policy brief is *not* a generic document. You are writing it to a person or group of persons who can take action on the issue. Make sure you target the document well in the writing.

Assignment Objectives:

Successful completion of this assignment will allow you to:

- Craft an arts policy advocacy brief that can be used for arts advocacy purposes.
- Become familiar with arts-policy issues.
- Improve your ability to write persuasively, as well as your overall writing abilities.
- Engage in focused research on an arts-policy issue.
- Develop critical-thinking skills around a focused issue.

Before you begin: Make sure to read all the material concerning policy briefs, arts policy issues, and sample advocacy briefs provided in this unit.

When you read the sample advocacy briefs, study how they are constructed and why they might be persuasive.

To begin the assignment: Select an arts-policy issue (make sure that it is an arts-policy issue and not a policy issue from some other topic area).

Ask yourself: What is it that you would like the governor of your state to do about it? **Note:** Many of the issues you might choose have already been written about. That’s great because it can inform your work. *But*, make sure you aren’t just copying the work of others.

You can choose to advocate for a position that already exists, or you can come up with your own.

Once you decide what you would like the governor to do, then begin to craft your policy brief. Use the readings provided to help you with this assignment.

Craft the policy brief to the best of your ability.

Your first effort is an ungraded draft. If you are confused or find it difficult, that is quite normal. Just forge ahead and do your best. Your learning is best served in this assignment if you turn in a completed assignment.

After completing your draft, read it over to check for technical-writing errors. Make sure it looks professional and that it follows the guidelines provided, as well as adheres to the following additional criteria:

- The policy brief is clear and succinct.
- It asks for the governor’s support on a concrete issue.
- It is persuasive.
- The writing follows a logical construction that helps to make it more persuasive.

After receiving comments from me (within one week) on your first draft, use those comments and these assignment instructions to complete the final version for a grade later in this course.

Your document should be in Microsoft Word or similar word-processing software.

Upon completion of the assignment, upload it for grading.