

POSC 103 American National Government
Dr. McTague

Directions: Political Engagement and Reflection Assignment 1: Attending an event on campus
Assignment Due Date: Rolling deadline until 10/29
Worth: 10% of final grade

Overview: As noted in the syllabus, you are tasked with attending an event on campus that is somehow related to being politically engaged and composing a 3-5 page reflection that connects your experience to concepts discussed in class. I am open-minded about what counts as "somehow related to being politically engaged," but probably the best way to find a suitable political engagement activity is to stay informed about the programming of the Office of Civic Engagement & Leadership and to attend one of their events. You should particularly consult with Aly Smith as a resource for political engagement opportunities on campus.

In composing your essay, please incorporate responses to the following prompts, in no particular order. You should write in the style of a narrative or argument rather than by literally numbering a response to each question. If you have thoughts or observations not related to the prompts below, please feel free to also incorporate those observations into your reflection.

1. Describe the event that you attended. What was the purpose of the event? Did someone speak at the event, and if so, what was the content of their presentation? How many others were in attendance? Did you somehow participate beyond your attendance (e.g., by raising your hand to ask a question, or by engaging in some sort of activity)? Use examples to illustrate your observations.
2. What value, if any, do you think people at the event derived from their attendance/participation? What value did you, personally, derive from your participation? Would you recommend this event to others?
3. Identify at least one concept (you may discuss more than one) from your course reading or from class discussions that you are able to connect to your experience at the event you attended. Be sure to take a few sentences to clearly explain the concept before you go on to discuss its connection to the event. How, if at all, did your experience illuminate your understanding of this concept?
4. If you were in charge of organizing the event you attended, what, if anything, would you have done differently?