

Weekly Discussion Board Questions (15 Week Course)

1) Introduce yourself

What is your name?

How long have you been taking classes at HFCC?

Are you a part-time or full-time student?

Do you work? If so, part-time or full-time?

What is your major or intended major?

What was your first political experience?

What city do you live in?

Is there something about you that you would not mind sharing with the rest of the world? (E.g. hobbies, sports, educational/career goals, music, etc.)

2) Issues and Concerns

What do you think is the most pressing issue(s) facing your 1) community, 2) the United States, and 3) the World today. These should be issues that you think the public sector (and/or the political system) can HELP resolve? Please describe each issue as you understand it, and provide reasoning why you think this deserves more attention than other concerns.

3) My Concern

Overall, based on what you have read from Week #2 discussion posts and discussed in class and elsewhere, what do you think is the single most pressing issue that the public sector can help resolve? (Please provide at least two complete sentences on why you think this issue needs immediate attention.)

4) Civil Liberties and Political Voice

What are the most important civil liberties to ensure citizens have a political voice? What are the challenges people when using their political voice in the United States and elsewhere?

5) Civil Rights and Social Movements

The Civil Rights Movements and other social movements have mobilized large numbers of people and gained attention around various concerns. Does your issue lend itself to a social movement for wider political attention? Explain how you might begin promoting your concern to get wider political attention.

6) Public Opinion for the Issue

Are there any public opinion polls that have addressed your concern? If so, what are some of their findings? Does this help or hurt your cause?

7) Interest Groups and your Concern

Are there any interest groups that are advocating on behalf of your concern? How about any that oppose your position on your concern? What methods are used by interest groups that you could employ to impact the political agenda?

8) Political Voice

What are some mechanisms of political voice that might be used to highlight your concern to the public, the political elites, and the mass media? Are there any challenges to using any particular mechanism?

9) Congress: Your representatives stance

Has your United States Congress person (member of the US House of Representatives) or one of the United States Senators from Michigan addressed your issue (look at their web-site). If so, how? If not, what might you do to get this on their agenda?

10) The President's Agenda

Does the President of the United States have your issue on his agenda? (hint: check out the issues at <http://www.whitehouse.gov>) If not, what might be done to get your issue to be one the administrations priorities?

11) The Federal Bureaucracy: Response to the Concern

Is there a Federal Department or Agency that might help address your issue? If so, which one, and do they do anything presently to try to address the concern?