## **ADVANCED HEALTH POLICY ELECTIVE:**

## **MINI DEBATE INSTRUCTIONS**

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**2020 VERSION:**

You will be asked to write an up to 2-page policy position brief, plus an in-class explanation of your position. The goal is to demonstrate competence in the content of a key ongoing policy debate and to synthesize both arguments and counter arguments for/against a particular policy position.

**Topic**:

- The policy topic prompt

- In light of the recent pandemic, should the US offer a program of universal health insurance coverage?

- What are the potential benefits? What are the costs and/or risks?

- Should this program be open only for citizens or should all people in the US be included (visitors, legal immigrants, undocumented persons)?

- Roles will include:

- insurance lobby

- drug company (Sanofi)

- patient advocate group (of the students choosing).

- conservative Republican (Donald Trump)

- moderate Republican (Susan Collins)

- moderate Democrat (Joe Biden)

- liberal Democrat (Bernie Sanders)

**Two components:**

**Pre-class:**

- Please write a brief (2-page maximum) policy brief delineating your policy position. You should treat this brief as a private memorandum from the candidate’s chief of staff to the candidate him/herself. In other words, you can write things here that would not be politically popular were they to be made public.

- It must include the following components:

- Your main objective in the political debate, in a single sentence.

- A one-sentence ‘key talking point’ for media coverage of the debate. (Note that this may differ significantly from the objective above.)

- A description of arguments to support your main objective (from the perspective of your assigned role).

- Address likely counterarguments to your stated position.

- FORMAT: Papers must be in Times New Roman 12-point font, with one-inch margins, double-spaced. The two-page limit does not include the title page or references.

**In-class:**

- Each team will be given 3 minutes on the final day to delineate their position; they may be asked follow-up questions by the moderator.

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## **2021 VERSION:**

You will be asked to write an up to 2-page policy position brief, plus an in-class explanation of your position. The goal is to demonstrate competence in the content of a key ongoing policy debate and to synthesize both arguments and counter arguments for/against a particular policy position.

***Topic***:

- The policy topic prompt

- In light of the recent pandemic, should the US offer a program of universal health insurance coverage?

- What are the potential benefits? What are the costs and/or risks?

- Should this program be open only for citizens or should all people in the US be included (visitors, legal immigrants, undocumented persons)?

- Roles will include:

- Insurance lobby

- Hospital lobby

- American Medical Association

- Drug lobby (Sanofi, PhRMA)

- Patient advocate group (of the students choosing)

- Conservative Republican (Mitch McConnell)

- Liberal Democrat (Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez)

***Two components*:**

**Pre-class:**

- Please write a brief (2-page maximum) policy brief delineating your policy position. You should treat this brief as a private memorandum from the candidate’s chief of staff to the candidate him/herself. In other words, you can write things here that would not be politically popular were they to be made public.

- It must include the following components:

- Your main objective in the political debate, in a single sentence.

- A one-sentence ‘key talking point’ for media coverage of the debate. (Note that this may differ significantly from the objective above.)

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- Address likely counterarguments to your stated position.

- FORMAT: Papers must be in Times New Roman 12-point font, with one-inch margins, double-spaced. The two-page limit does not include the title page or references.

**In-class:**

- Each team will be given 3 minutes on the final day to delineate their position; they may be asked follow-up questions by the moderator.