

## ANALYZING AND EVALUATING YOUR INFORMATION

For each piece of information you find that you think will be useful in developing the class portfolio, provide the following information. Attach this information to the item.

1. Name/title of the material \_\_\_\_\_  
Author (if there is one) \_\_\_\_\_  
Source (where it comes from) \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

2. Write a brief summary of the important information related to your problem that you found in this material.

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3. This material could be used as evidence for

### Explaining the Problem

- Display Panel
- Documentation Section

### Proposed Public Policy

- Display Panel
- Documentation Section

### Alternative Policies

- Display Panel
- Documentation Section

### Action Plan

- Display Panel
- Documentation Section

4. Give a brief explanation of your choices.

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# INTERVIEW FORM

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

The problem \_\_\_\_\_

1. Name of person interviewed \_\_\_\_\_

Note: If a person does not wish to be named, respect his or her privacy and indicate only the person's role in the community (e.g., businessperson, retired person, parent, student, community volunteer).

2. Tell the person which problem you are studying. Then ask the following questions.

Record the answers you receive.

a. Is this a problem that you think is important? Why?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. Do you think others in our community believe this is an important problem? Why?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c. What policy, if any, does government now have to deal with this problem?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If a policy does exist, answer the following questions:

• What are the advantages of this policy?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

• What are the disadvantages of this policy?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

• How might the policy be improved?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

• Does it need to be replaced? Why?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

• What disagreements about this policy, if any, exist in our community?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

d. Where can I (or my class) get more information about this problem and the different positions people take on the problem?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## TASK ONE EXPLAINING THE PROBLEM

The first thing you and your classmates will need to do is to clearly explain the problem you have chosen. You will need to explain why the problem is important, which individuals or groups in the community are interested in this problem, and which part of government has responsibility for dealing with it. To accomplish this you will need to answer the following questions:

1. What is the problem that you and your classmates want to study?

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2. How serious is this problem in your community?

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3. How widespread is this problem in your community?

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4. Why is it a problem that should be handled by government?

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5. Should anyone else in the community take responsibility for solving the problem?

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6. Is there an existing law or policy for dealing with the problem?

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**TASK ONE (CONTINUED)**

7. If there is a law or policy, is it adequate to solve the problem?

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8. What disagreements, if any, are there in your community about this problem and the way it is being handled?

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9. Who are the individuals, groups, or organizations with an interest in the problem?

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10. For each individual, group, or organization you identify, answer the following questions. Use a separate sheet of paper for your answers.

- What is their position on the problem?
- Why are they interested?
- What are the advantages of their position?
- What are the disadvantages of their position?
- How are they trying to influence government to adopt their view?

11. What level of government or government agency is responsible for dealing with this problem? Why?

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12. What is the government doing about the problem?

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## TASK TWO EXAMINING ALTERNATIVE POLICIES

You must identify several alternative policies for dealing with the problem you have chosen. These policies may include an existing policy or policies being proposed by individuals or groups in the community. You should also include your own original ideas for policies to address the problem.

For each policy presented, you should

1. State the policy or suggested policy.
2. Identify the individual or group that is proposing the policy (this could be your own class or group).
3. Identify the advantages of this proposed policy.
4. Identify the disadvantages of this proposed policy.
5. Identify other individuals or groups in the community who are likely to support this policy.
6. Identify other individuals or groups in the community who are likely to oppose this policy.

Use the bottom of this page to write your answers for each policy you identify.  
Use additional pages if necessary.

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### TASK THREE PROPOSING A PUBLIC POLICY

Next, you will need to propose a public policy to deal with the problem. It must not violate the U.S. Constitution or your state's constitution. It may be one of the alternative policies you discussed earlier, a modification of one of those policies, or it may be your own original idea. Answer the questions below and complete the Constitutional Opinion Form on pages 44–45.

1. We think the best public policy to deal with this problem is

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2. The advantages of this policy are

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3. The disadvantages of this policy are

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4. Identify the level of government that would be responsible for carrying out your proposed policy. Explain why this level of government is responsible.

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5. The policy being proposed is constitutional because (use your answers from the Constitutional Opinion Form to complete this item)

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## TASK FOUR DEVELOPING AN ACTION PLAN

You will need to develop an action plan to get your policy adopted by the appropriate governmental body or agency. This plan should include the steps you will need to take to get your proposed policy enacted and implemented by the government.

1. The main activities of our plan are

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2. Influential individuals and groups who might be willing to support our proposed policy are

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3. To win their support we can

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4. Influential individuals and groups who might oppose our proposed policy are

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**TASK FOUR (CONTINUED)**

5. We might be able to win some support from these individuals and groups by

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6. Influential government officials or agencies that might be willing to support our proposed policy are

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7. We can gain their support by

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8. Influential government officials or agencies that might oppose our policy are

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9. We might be able to gain their support by

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