THE POLICY PAPER
GOVT 2305
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

MR. THOMAS ENRIQUEZ

Please follow directions carefully and ask for help if you need it.
INSTRUCTOR: Thomas Enríquez
COURSE: Government

EL PASO COMMUNITY COLLEGE
RIO GRANDE CAMPUS

DIRECTIONS FOR THE POLICY PAPER

YOUR PAPER WILL BE CAREFULLY GRADED. FOLLOW DIRECTIONS COMPLETELY AND TALK TO ME IF YOU ARE UNSURE OR HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS ASSIGNMENT.

1. A POLICY PAPER is a problem-solution paper that clearly identifies a political problem and describes your specific and persuasive solution to it.

2. The FORMAT for your paper should be: (1) clearly state a specific political problem, (2) describe and evaluate alternative solution(s), (3) and explain your specific solution.

3. CONTENT of your paper should be: a title page, an outline page, the body of your paper, and a references page in APA style.

4. You should have at least 3 correctly done APA FOOTNOTES in the body of your paper.

5. Your paper should be typed (.10 or .12 font New Times Roman) in double-space with NOT LESS than 3, and NOT MORE than 5, full pages in standard form.

6. ACCEPTABLE SOURCES are government documents and reports, academic journals, technical reports, reliable books, newspapers, magazines, and EPCC or UTEP internet (.edu, .gov, .mil, .org). You should have a MINIMUM of 5 different sources.

7. UNACCEPTABLE SOURCES are textbooks, questionable internet sites, any visual media, personal interviews, general encyclopedias (Wikipedia), partisan propaganda, and sensational books, newspapers, and magazines. Please check with me if you are not sure about your sources.

8. Use FIRST PERSON tense expression throughout your paper.

9. Conscious and unconscious PLAGIARISM will be graded F.

10. PROOFREAD for all spelling, grammar, and capitalization mistakes.

11. Show good MECHANICS, neatness, and clear presentation.

12. A ROUGH DRAFT and 3 dated source article pages MUST be turned in with your paper.

13. LATE PAPERS WILL BE PENALIZED -50 POINTS PER CLASS DAY OVERDUE.

14. YOUR PAPER IS DUE IN MY OFFICE NO LATER THAN 10:00 PM:

MARCH 3+4
POLICY PAPER EVALUATION

POINTS WERE DEDUCTED FOR THE CIRCLED ITEMS BELOW

TOTAL POINTS EARNED: _________ / 200 POINTS

1. Unacceptable or unapproved policy topic of your paper for this class.
2. Title page, outline, unacceptable, unclear, or too broad.
3. Unacceptable, inadequate, or incomplete sources for your paper.
4. No clear, specific description of the political problem you are writing about.
5. Inadequate, incomplete, alternative solutions discussed.
6. Inadequate, incomplete, solution to solve the political problem.
7. Sections in your paper were unclear, ambiguous, or confusing.
8. Overall comments are too general, vague, or not specific.
9. Most, or all, of your paper was not written in the first person tense.
10. Unacceptable, inadequate, or incomplete APA footnotes in your paper.
11. Little evidence of your own original interpretation or explanation.
12. Unacceptable, inadequate, or incomplete format for your paper.
13. Little or no relation to politics and government in your comments.
14. Too descriptive, unpersuasive, unconvincing, or opinionated comments.
15. Poor mechanics or poor appearance of your paper overall.
16. Inadequate or excessive length of your paper.
17. Inadequate, incomplete, or unacceptable references page.
18. Serious capitalization, spelling, or grammatical mistakes.
19. No rough draft or dated source article pages turned in with your paper.
20. You did not follow directions, understand, or ask for help for this paper.

OTHER: _______________________________________________________

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT TOPICS

1. ISIS and the Islamic State is a direct threat to America.
2. The national debt is creating a future economic catastrophe.
3. America does not have a secure border.
4. The Keystone pipeline would be a danger to the environment.
5. "Obamacare" will destroy the American health care system.
6. Community college education should be free in America.
7. Climate change is a reality facing the U.S. and the world.
8. Demand for drugs in the U.S. is causing the violence in Mexico.
9. The U.S. is not producing enough engineers.
10. The federal government wastes too much money.
11. Family breakdown is a major reason for poverty in the U.S.
12. "Cyberbullying" is a serious national problem.
13. America must prepare to defend against cyber terrorism.
14. Domestic violence is a serious national problem.
15. The U.S. is unprepared for a global epidemic.
16. America should immediately develop energy independence.
17. The U.S. public school system is a failure.
18. Americans eat the worst food in the world.
19. Social media is good for American democracy.
20. America must prevent a nuclear Iran.
The library is located in the Oregon Center Room E100. We are open seven days a week when classes are in session and always have a librarian on duty to assist you.

The Rio Grande Library provides access to books, eBooks, journals, magazines, newspapers, and the Internet. We also provide over 100 computers with Internet and Microsoft Office for your use.

In addition, wireless Internet is available throughout the campus.

Please let us know if you need any assistance.

Library Hours
(You can call to verify hours before visiting the library.)

**Rio Grande**
Phone: 831-4019/4018
Monday-Thursday 7:30am-8:30pm
Friday 7:30am-2:00pm
Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm
Sunday 1:00pm-5:00pm

**Northwest**
Phone: 831-8889/8840
Monday-Thursday 7:30am-8:00pm
Friday 7:30am-4:00pm
Saturday 10:00am-4:00pm
Sunday Closed

**Mission del Paso**
Phone: 831-7040/7057
Monday-Thursday 7:30am-8:00pm
Friday 7:30am-4:00pm
Saturday 9:00am-1:00pm
Sunday Closed

**Transmountain**
Phone: 831-5098/5092
Monday-Thursday 7:30am-10:00pm
Friday 7:30am-5:00pm
Saturday 9:00am-5:00pm
Sunday 12:00pm-4:00pm

**Valle Verde**
Phone: 831-2442/2645
Monday-Thursday 7:00am-10:00pm
Friday 7:00am-4:00pm
Saturday 9:00am-4:00pm
Sunday 12:00pm-4:00pm
Reference Services
Reference Librarians are available for consultation on reference and research questions and to assist patrons in using the computer catalog, the online databases, the reference collection or any other library resource.

ASK FOR ASSISTANCE AT THE REFERENCE OR CIRCULATION DESKS.

Online Articles
The library provides access to thousands of journal, magazine, and newspaper articles through the **Online Databases**. Access is available 24/7 for current EPCC students, staff, and faculty. To access off-campus, go to the library webpage and click on “Online Databases.” Choose a database and click on “off-campus access.” Enter your name and EPCC ID number to gain access.

Library Card
Validated El Paso County Community College District identification cards will be used as library cards. When you wish to check out library materials, present your validated I.D. card along with your material at the Circulation Desk. Your I.D. card may be used at all El Paso Community College Libraries. Please check materials for damage prior to check-out.

Community User Library cards will be issued to current El Paso County residents who are not EPCC students, faculty or staff. Applications are available at each library Circulation Desk and online. The card may be renewed every year. General circulation regulations will apply to Community User library card holders. However, only two items can be checked out at a time. (Community Users are not eligible for Resource Sharing (Interlibrary Loan)). Video check out at Rio Grande is restricted to established borrowers.

Book/AV Checkout
- Books check out for 3 weeks.
- Audio Visual Materials check out for 1 week.
- Reference Sources and periodicals are for use in the library only.

Library fines for each overdue item is 25 cents per day. If materials are not returned, a bill for replacement plus a $10.00 processing fee will be mailed to the borrower. The registrar will place a hold on the student’s transcripts and the student will not be allowed to register for the following semester until accounts are paid.

Return of Materials
Return materials to the Circulation Desk during the hours that the library is open. When the library is closed, return all materials in the book drop outside the library entrance. Items may be returned to any of the EPCC Libraries.

Reserve Materials
Instructors may place items on Reserve. These items are available at the Circulation Desk and are for use in the library only.

Photocopies
Photocopiers are available. Copiers accept coin, cash, and vendacards.

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Photocopies
Photocopiers are available. Copiers accept coin, cash, and vendacards.
American Government

How do I get started?
1. Choose a topic. Your instructor might give you a topic or ask you to choose one.
2. Learn more about your topic and what the different sides of the issues are by finding background information in dictionaries, encyclopedias and books.
   o World Book Encyclopedia (Ref AE 5.W5 2012) – Good place to start for most topics.
   o Opposing Viewpoints, At Issue, or Current Controversies series (Multiple books on different topics) – Provides information on both sides of issues.
3. Write your topic on a sheet of paper.
4. Break the topic down into keywords. Think of as many words as you can to describe your topic.
   o Example: Can the federal government fight the obesity epidemic?
   (Keywords: obesity, obesity epidemic, food habits, eating disorders, public health, U.S. government). You can also add the following terms: policy, government, law, legislation, impact, plan(s), or planning.
5. Find out what kinds of sources you can use: books, e-books, magazines, journals, websites...

Library Website: www.epcc.edu/library
For a link to Mr. Enriques Notebook go to the Library Website > Library Research Guides > Government > Government 2305: American Government (Mr. Enriquex)

Books
1. Go to the library website.
2. Search “Library Catalog” (Classic Catalog searches just physical & eBook library materials; Encore will simultaneously search for all library materials plus journal articles.)
3. Search for books by Keyword, Subject, Title, or Author.
   o Keyword – Enter the keywords that describe your topic. Use the word “AND” in between words.
     • drugs and violence and Mexico
     • Obama and health care
   o Subject – Enter the main idea of your topic.
     • Airport Security (Airports -- Security measures -- United States)
     • Climate change (Climatic changes -- Political aspects -- United States; Global warming -- Political aspects -- United States.)
   o Title - Enter the title of the book you want to find.
     • Powering the future: a scientist's guide to energy independence
     • Obesity 101
   o Author - Enter the name of the author (last name, first name)
     • Rossen, Lauren
4. Check the location of the book (campus where it is located). You can request that another campus send the book to your campus (Can take about a week).
5. Write down the call number of the book so you can look for the book on the shelf.

E-books
   o If the book is an e-book, click on the title. Then click on the link to the electronic book.
   o Click on “View e-book.” You can turn the pages at the top right using “previous” or “next.” You can also use the table of contents and index down the side to jump to another section in the book.

Articles
1. Go to the library website.
2. Click on “Online Databases.”
3. These are listings of databases. Databases are just magazine, journals, and newspapers on the computer.
4. The databases are divided up by subject. Choose the subject closest to your topic.
   o (Controversial Issues; General Interest; Newspaper/Current Events; Database Collections)
5. Good databases to try for your topics:
   General Interest
   o Academic Search Complete and Newspaper Source (EBSCO) – Provides journals, magazines, newspapers from 1887-Present
     • Topic: Social media is good for American democracy
     • Keywords: social media, democracy, United States
       • Enter Keywords: Social Media AND democracy (Checkmark Full Text)
Newspaper/Current Events

Controversial Issues
  - *Opposing Viewpoints in Context* — Great to use for controversial issues. Provides essays that show both sides of the issue. Also contains magazine, journal, and newspaper articles as well as websites and statistics.
    - **Two easy ways to search:**
      - Click on “Browse Issues”, then “View All” to see a listing of topics.
        - **Topic: Cyberbullying is a serious national problem**
          o Select “Cyberbullying” from the list of topics provided
        - Search by keyword or subject of your choice.
          - **Topic: Cyberterrorism**
            o Using the keyword box in upper right corner: cyberterrorism and defense, cyberdefense, cyber threats, cyber war
  - *CQ Researcher* Weekly in depth studies of “hot” topics which include charts, graphs, and a pro-con feature.
    - **Search by advanced search:**
      - **Topic: The National Debt is creating a future economic catastrophe.**
        - Enter keywords: national debt, federal debt, national deficit, United States, economy
    - *SIRS Issues Researcher* — Provides magazines, newspapers, reference materials, and images,
      - **Database opens to a subject search— Can also select a keyword search.**
        - **Topic: Childhood obesity is a national epidemic**
          Enter keywords: child*, obesity, epidemic, policy
        - **Can also search by topic. To the right of “Leading Issues” click the topic from the A to Z list tab:**
          - **Click on Topic: Climate Changes**
  6. **Select the database** by clicking on the title. *(If off-campus, click on “Off-campus access.”)*
  7. **Enter your keywords** in the search box.
  8. **Checkmark the Full-Text box** (limits to articles with article attached)
  9. **Click on search.**
  10. **Find the article you want to read and click on the title.**
  11. **To read the article, click on pdf or html full-text link provided.**
  12. **You can e-mail, print, or save the article.**
  13. **If you don’t find what you need or get too many hits, try changing the words in the search box.** **ASK FOR HELP!**

**Internet:** The Internet has a lot of great resources. It is important, however, to evaluate the website to make sure it has reliable information before using it in your paper.

**Author:** Who is the author of the website? Do they have a degree in the topic they are writing about? Who are they affiliated with? *(Look for author name, “about us,” “who we are,” etc... for this information)*

**Date:** How old is the information? Has it been updated recently? *(Look for the publication date on the page.)*

**Bias:** Is the information biased? Are they taking a side of the issue and trying to push their opinion or trying to sell you something? Is it fact or opinion? **It is important to use unbiased sources for informational papers.**

**Sources listed:** Did the author list where they got their information?

**Google:** [www.google.com](http://www.google.com)
  - Enter your keywords in the search box.
  - **Advanced Search**—Click on “advanced search” (next to search box).
    - Find “Search within a site or domain”
      - Enter .gov .edu .org or .mil to help you find reputable websites.
  - Remember that “Anonymous” sources are not allowed

**Websites:**
  - Policy Almanac — [www.policyalmanac.org](http://www.policyalmanac.org)
  - ProCon.org — Pros and cons of controversial issues

**Bibliographic citation help:**
  - Research and Documentation Online (Diana Hacker): [http://bscs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/](http://bscs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/)
APA CITING


PRINT MATERIALS:

Provide as much of the following information as possible when citing print materials.
Author’s last name, Initials
Year of Publication
Title of the Work
Information about editions, volume numbers, and page numbers (in parentheses following the title, with the period after the parentheses.
City of publication: name of the publisher.

A Book by a Single Author: (7.02 p. 203)


Chapter in a Book: (7.02 p. 204)


A Book by Two or More Authors: (7.02 p. 202)


An Article in a Reference Book: (7.02 p. 204-205)

PERIODICAL PRINT MATERIALS:

An Article in a Scholarly Journal with a Digital Object Identifier (DOI): (7.01 p. 198)


An Article in a Scholarly Journal without a Digital Object Identifier (DOI): (7.01 p. 199)


An Article in a Newspaper: (7.01 p. 200)


An Article in a Magazine: (7.01 p. 200)


PERIODICAL PUBLICATION FROM AN ONLINE DATABASE: (7.01 p. 198-201)

Use the above examples when citing a scholarly journal, newspaper, or magazine found in one of the library databases and then include Retrieved from and the URL for the database.

An Article in a Scholarly Journal: (7.01 p. 200)


An Article from the Web: (7.01 p. 200)


OTHER COMMON SOURCES:

A Film or Video Recording: (7.07 p. 209)


A Podcast: (7.07 p210)

Citing Resources: Print

Note: The first line of the entry is flush with the left margin, and second and subsequent lines are indented 5 spaces. All lines are double-spaced and entries are listed in alphabetical order. In MLA style, every important word of the title is capitalized, in APA style, only the first word of the title or subtitle and proper names are capitalized. (Examples are single spaced due to limitation of space.)

**MLA (7th ed.)**

**Books**


**Encyclopedia Articles**


**Magazine Articles**


**Journal Articles**


**Newspaper Articles**


**Reviews**


**Films**


**APA (6th ed.)**

**Books**


**Encyclopedia Articles**


**Magazine Articles**


**Journal Articles**


**Newspaper Articles**


**Reviews**


**Films**


For citation formats of other resources, and for in-text and footnote citation guidelines, see a librarian at the Reference desk:

* MLA Style Manual
* Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association

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**Citing Resources: Online**

### MLA (7th ed.)

**E-books**

**Encyclopedia Articles**

**Magazine Articles on the World Wide Web**

**Magazine Articles from a Database**

**Journal Articles from a Database**

**Newspaper Articles from a Database**

**Web Sites**

### APA (6th ed.)

**E-books**

**Encyclopedia Articles**

**Magazine Articles on the World Wide Web**

**Magazine Articles from a Database**

**Journal Articles from a Database**

**Newspaper Articles from a Database**

**Web Sites**


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EPCC Library

Citing and Tutorials

Citation Tool

NoodleTools is a web-based set of tools that EPCC students, faculty and staff can use to assist in the research process. Click here or on the NoodleTools image/logo to login.

Off-campus access link.

Create your Personal ID and Password from an EPCC computer. Once you have created your account, then you will be able to access it from any computer including your home computer.

Note: Your NoodleTools account will expire at the end of the Summer semester, August 31, 2015 if you DO NOT continue to be an EPCC student.

ACS (American Chemical Society) Style Guidelines
ACS Style Guidelines (Web) (3rd edition)
ACS Quick Guide (Web) - Penn State University

APA / MLA Citing
APA / MLA Citing Print Resources (PDF)
APA / MLA Citing Online Resources (PDF)

APA Citing
APA Citing (PDF)
APA Citing - Careers (PDF)
APA Citing - Literature (PDF)
APA Citing - Online Databases (PDF)
APA Citing - Web Tutorial
Corrected Sample Paper APA Style (PDF)

ASA (American Sociological Association) Style Guide
ASA Quick Style Guide, 4th ed. (PDF)
Purdue OWL - ASA Style (Web)

Chicago-Style Citing
Chicago-Style Citation - Quick Guide (Web)
Chicago-Style Citation - Hacker Handbook (Web)
Purdue OWL - Chicago-Style (Web)

MLA Citing
MLA Citing (PDF)
MLA Citing - Careers (PDF)
MLA Citing - In-Text Citations (PDF)
MLA Citing - Literature (PDF)
Policy Paper
United States Borders Are Out of Control

By

American Government GOVT 2305
Mr. Thomas Enriquez
November 10, 2008
Outline

I. U.S. borders are out of control:
   A. Illegal immigrants and possible terrorists are coming into the country
   B. Drug trafficking and human smuggling is causing the U.S. millions of dollars from our taxes to clean up their mess.

II. What the problem is.
    A. Americans who pay taxes will continue to pay for their medical expenses
    B. Terrorists will continue to come into our country.

III. What Congress can do.
     A. Border-Security Bill: $103 million passed to combat drugs and human smuggling.
     B. The focus of the bill is border and border security.

IV. What are other alternatives.
    A. Building the U.S. –Mexico border fence should prevent illegal immigrants to pass the border, but immigrants previously dug tunnels to get across.
    B. Building the fence is so expensive that it probably won’t be done by the end of the year.

V. My recommendation:
   A. First the wall needs to get done before any action is taken within the U.S.
   B. Then Federal Immigration Authorities should remove every “Sanctuary Ordinance” from the U.S. to filter out all illegal immigrants.
I. United States borders are out of control.

   It is estimated that an average of 800,000 illegal immigrants enter the U.S. every year. Within these immigrants are possible terrorists. Drug trafficking, human smuggling and other crimes such as murder, rape, robbery, and kidnapping have also become a concern between the U.S. and Mexico borders. "One of the worst aspects of our government's border policy is the repeated entrance of alien criminals." (Schlaflly, 2005) The way criminals change their names or enter the U.S. with fake papers just goes to show how inefficient the federal immigration system is. Not only that, but "the Justice Department's inspector general admitted that our government released 35,318 criminal aliens into the general population in 2000. This just goes to show that the U.S. government may not be doing they're job.

II. What the problem is.

   Terrorists will continue to come into our country and drug trafficking, human smuggling, and illegal immigration will continue. Also if nothing is done, us Americans, taxpayers, will continue to pay for their government aid and their medical expenses in the hospitals. This is a big concern for me because I am majoring in nursing and when I go work at the hospital it's going to be as if I am paying the illegal immigrants to care for them. This extra money that is being wasted can be used for organizations and programs that will actually benefit more Americans. The government even has to pay to pick up their trash. "The government has appropriated $695,000 to clean up the trash and waste in Southeast Arizona to cope with the environmental damage caused by human traffic." (Schlaflly, 2005) Not only did the U.S. have to pay to clean this up, but these mountains of trash were a risk for forest fires.
III. What Congress can do.

Governor Rick Perry has proposed the Border Security bill. This bill will give $103 million in border security dollars to cities, counties, and border sheriffs to combat human smuggling and drug trafficking. The bill has been passed. This bill will take us a step closer to taking control of the border. The only inconvenience of this bill is that it doesn’t offer any accountability for the counties that are awarded the money, so who is to say that the counties are using all of the money for the purpose of fighting human smuggling and drug traffic. An amendment was later made to the bill by “Rep. Rafael Anchia to set up a police-integrity unit in the attorney general’s office to investigate police who traffic drugs and people.” (Brooks, 2007)

IV. What are other alternatives.

Another option that has been taken is to build the U.S. –Mexico border fence. The proposed 1,951 mile barrier would consist of a ten-foot high wall of metal and parallel steel-mesh fence, with a lighted road between them to enable Border Patrol agents to officially keep the area under watch for illegal crossers. The average cost of this project is $7.5 million per mile for pedestrian barriers and $2.8 million for vehicle fencing. “W. Ralph Basham, the commissioner of the departments of Customs and Border Protection Division, acknowledged that the projects had encountered complications. The escalating price of steel among other costs has driven up the price of the fence.” (Archibold, 2008) Since 2008, Congress has approved $2.7 billion for the secure border initiative so it is likely that the fence is not going to be done any time soon. Maybe a physical barrier would really protect America but determined immigrants have previously dug tunnels to get across the border.
V. My Recommendation

My recommendation is for the U.S. to work from the outside in. What I mean is for the U.S. to build the fence and then start filtering out all the illegal immigrants. A way of making it easier to get the deported is to remove all sanctuary ordinances. Sanctuary ordinances prohibit local police from reporting illegal aliens to federal authorities. It also bans police from asking immigration status unless they are suspected of committing a felony, are a threat to national security or have been previously deported. What doesn’t make sense to me about this is how the police are going to know if they have been previously deported unless they ask, yet they’re not allowed to. “Local police should be allowed to preempt vicious crimes by checking the citizenship status of people arrested for minor as well as major crimes, and then report illegal immigrants to federal authorities.” (Schlafly, 2005)

Before the September 11 terrorist attacks, ringleader Mohamed Atta was ticketed in Florida for driving without a license, and his accomplice Ziad Samir Jarrah was ticketed for speeding in Maryland, and both were on expired visas. I believe that if sanctuary ordinances had not been established, September 11 may have been prevented. In order for this to be done the government needs to remain strict on what they have already started doing because in the future we will face the effect that this will cause.
REFERENCES


