State and Local Politics
POL 371
Minnesota State University
Spring 2010

Issue Summary Paper Assignment

In Step One of this process, you picked a topic for your written issue summary, answered several important questions about the topic, and in Step Two you chose two states (your home state and one other state) and answered questions that addressed how the issue affected each state including controversies and differences between the state. In Step Three you added to your discussion of the issue and combined it with your earlier material into one coherent paper. You should now be ready for the next step of the process. Step Four helps you finish your work.

Step Four: Due April 22

The fourth step takes advantage of the peer-evaluation process wherein students exchange papers with their peers for editing and commentary. Each student should exchange papers with two other students. Then read the other students’ papers, fill out the Peer Evaluation forms and bring them to class on April 22. On April 22, bring two copies of each evaluation (use photocopies if you want), so that you can turn one of each evaluation in for credit and return the others to your respective peers. Your grade for this portion of the issue summary will be based upon how much effort you make to assist your peers with constructive criticism.

Comment:

We are going to have very quick turnaround after April 22. On April 22, you will receive the evaluation forms from your peers, and you will have one week to incorporate suggested changes into your issue summary. You do not have to incorporate all suggestions, but you should be sure to address all significant and important concerns raised in the peer evaluations. Your final issue summary paper will be due on April 29, and you will turn in the final paper, the draft and the peer evaluations of your paper. You should also turn in the extra copies of the evaluations that you filled out for other people (in case they do not turn them in).