

Details on Research Paper

Your research project that will entail writing up a 2500 word (double spaced, 12 pt font, usual margins, excluding references, etc.) review of an issue that has been the subject of at least one recent (within the last 15 years) statewide initiative, though preferable at least a few. The paper is due on May 3rd. You should use (and cite) a number of independent sources in addition to visiting the web sites of the state's election web page and those of the groups involved. I would also suggest using the Initiative and Referendum Institute's database that allows you to search initiatives by topic. Academic work may also be useful – search at JSTOR or look at the journal *Policy Studies*. Newspaper and magazine articles can be found on Lexis-Nexis and other sites.

Here are some general features of the issue you should try to discuss.

1. Give some details about the nature of the issue (less than two pages).
2. Why did the issue appear on the agenda when it did? Did it first appear through the initiative or through the legislature?
3. What groups (interest groups, legislators, parties, individuals, etc.) were involved in support of this issue? You might look at campaign expenditure reports in states that publish this information. Also check out some press releases through newspaper archives and online searches.
4. What states did it come up in? Did it arise in states without the initiative process? Before or after it arose in initiative states?
5. How many states ended up adopting the issue?

The actual amount of time you spend on any of them will depend on what type of information you are able to find. I am willing to give a fair amount of leeway in cases where you happen to find a lot of information about one specific area of interest we have discussed in class. If you think can write up most of the paper using an in-depth analysis of the relationship between parties and initiatives on your issue, that would be great. I would suggest running it by me first, though, just to make sure you do have enough. In general, I will be happy to look over drafts if you give me enough time.

Here are some resources for citations for your papers:

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/resources/cite/index.html>

<http://www.ipl.org/ref/QUE/FARQ/netciteFARQ.html>

<http://www.wooster.edu/psychology/apa-crib.html>