

Politics Program Moderation Paper Guidelines (as revised Nov 2022)

You are asked to write an analysis of one of the assigned articles, found on the moderation section of the politics website for your program-specific paper. Your analysis should draw upon two (2) readings taken from the core courses in Politics that you have taken in preparation for moderation. Along with your response paper you should submit a reflection paper that explains why you have selected the assigned reading that you did and how it connects to your Politics coursework. These should be submitted as distinct files.

In preparing your response to the moderation reading, please adhere to the following format:

1. Write clearly and in complete sentences and limit your response to a minimum of 5 double-spaced pages and a maximum of 7 double-spaced pages.
2. You should draw directly upon the assigned reading and your two selected readings in developing your analysis in the paper. You are encouraged to carefully read the source material and to quote from the sources where appropriate.
3. You should include formal citations to materials that you make use of, and include a works cited list at the end of the paper.
4. Your paper should be typed, double-spaced, paginated, left-aligned, and in 12-point font. It should be submitted as a .pdf document to your board members.

A suggestion for how to organize your paper is offered below, but you need not follow this approach:

INTRODUCTION: This section provides the reader with an overview of the essay, signaling the major argument(s) to be made in the essay. It should be a single paragraph in length.

PART ONE: The Argument. This section provides a summary statement of the argument of the assigned article. It should include a clear statement of the question(s) or topic being examined and a concise summary of the article's main argument as the author of the article understands it. This section of the paper should be no more than 1.5 pages long.

PART TWO: Critical Evaluation. This section offers you the opportunity to discuss claims of the assigned reading and offer your own assessment of the analysis presented therein. You should draw upon the 2 readings you have selected from the core courses to show how scholars of politics could respond to the assigned article –

how can the 2 selected readings frame our understanding of the assigned reading? What elements of the assigned author's arguments and claims do they encourage us to highlight or question? Would the authors of the 2 selected readings be likely to agree or disagree with the claims presented in/the argument of the assigned article? This section of the paper should be at least 3 pages long.

PART THREE: Assessment. This section is a space for you to present your assessment of the article, in light of the discussion offered in Part Two. What does the assigned article (and your previous discussion of it) help us understand about political life, and what are constraints upon the lessons we could draw from the assigned article? Where could the analysis presented in the assigned reading be strengthened, and how could this be done? Finally, do you find the article's argument persuasive, flawed, or underdeveloped after putting it into conversation with the 2 selected readings? This section of the paper should be 1-1.5 pages long.

CONCLUSION: This section provides the reader with a reiteration of the key claims of the essay. It should be a single paragraph in length.

REFLECTION PAPER: This should be a separate essay (1 page in length) in which you explain why you chose the assigned reading that you did and how you see it as connecting with the coursework you have done in Politics so far.