PST 101 Newsletter Module 5

*Consider this newsletter to be part of the instructions for Module 5. You will find helpful hints that will save you points. Review your module using the newsletter as a guide.*

General Suggestions:

* Double-check your module for grammar and formatting errors! Refer to your old modules to see where you lost points for writing and organization.
* Be sure that you consistently follow directions for all of the chapters in the textbook.
* Pay attention to directions regarding sentence length and always keep your writing concise.
* When calculations are required, be sure to list the original formula and all steps in the calculation.
* Don’t be afraid to take advantage of office hours, the TAs are there to help you!

Skills Win! Exercise:

* Answer the questions seriously and follow all formatting directions. If you do this, you will lose no points and you will be a winner.

Exercise 9.1:

* Make sure to include BOTH a policy tool and the actual policy
* Be sure to include the specific geographic location of your policy
* Be sure to include ALL necessary actions for each branch of government (legislative or administrative).
* Nearly every policy requires some sort of significant funding.

Exercise 9.2:

* Make sure you are justifying why they are a player, and not just describing the player.
* If a player is a part of a larger group, use the larger group as the player. For example, don’t use individual senators, use the U.S Senate as the player.
* You must use and cite a source for the justification of **each** player; the source cannot be *Public Policy Skills in Action: A Pragmatic Introduction*.

Exercise 9.3:

* If a player has a power of 0 they are NOT a player
* Issue positions require a (+/-) sign next to the number
* Remember to quote a player you interviewed in at least one justification
* Use the correct words with each category, mixing them up might weaken your justification:
	+ - Issue Position = **Firmness** on the policy
		- Power = **Influence** over the policy
		- Priority = The **Importance** the player puts on supporting or opposing the policy

Exercise 9.4:

* CHECK YOUR CALCULATIONS
* Remember all players with an issue position of 0 should have parentheses around their final Prince score
* Use the formula: Sum of all positive scores **+ ½ the neutral scores**/ All scores ignoring signs and parentheses all multiplied by 100
* Your initial Prince Score should realistically fall in the 40-59% range or lower. It should not be much higher than that. You will have to re-calculate it later on to make the policy more feasible

Exercise 10.1:

* Your player should have a STRONG issue position (4 or 5 or higher)

Exercise 10.2:

* DO NOT USE “Making an Argument” as your political strategy. This includes euphemisms like “lobbying” or “present research.”
* Make sure you are using the correct player to implement the policy. The player who is using the strategy should have a strong issue position and is trying to change either the issue position or priority of ANOTHER player.
* Make sure your selected strategy is actually within the capabilities of your player
* Only use strategies in the textbook; don’t make anything up

Exercise 10.3:

* Justify only players who have a change in their issue position, power or priority.
* Don’t just describe the change – explain why this change would occur
* One justification must include a quote from a player you interviewed; the quote can be hypothetical, but must be realistic
* Again, remember to check calculations
* Your change in probability of implementation should not be higher than 15 or 20%. You have likely over-estimated the effectiveness of the policy if it is that high.
* Make sure to compare the two probabilities.

Exercise 10.4:

* Follow all directions and it should be an easy few points

Exercise 11.1:

* REMEMBER WORD COUNT AT THE END OF THE MEMO
* Do not go over 350 words total
* Number and label each of the four sections of your memo exactly as follows.

1. Societal Problem

2. Proposed Policy

3. Benchmarks

4. Political Feasibility

* In your Societal Problem category, make sure to include data or evidence of the problem in your locality.
* Be sure to include the agency implementing the policy in the Proposed Policy section
* Your benchmarks must be percentages or rates
* Be sure to include those who support ***and*** oppose the policy and why in Political Feasibility section
* Follow the exact format of the memo or you WILL lose points

Email your TA with any APA or Excel-related questions ONLY AFTER a thorough examination of the APA Guide on the website, this newsletter, and the formatting, grammar, and graphing guidelines.