

PBAF 560/URBDP 560 URBAN AFFAIRS, Winter 2009

Exercise II, Burien Problem Diagnosis

Due Thursday Feb 12 (NOTE DATE CHANGE) on e-submit. To turn in, link from course website <http://courses.washington.edu/pbafrgk/560>

This paper has two parts. The first is an analysis of the nature, consequence, and origin of what you view to be the most pressing urban or metropolitan problem. The second is a critique of the sources you were able to use in writing the paper.

Part I:

Your task is to write a 5-to-7-page double-spaced paper (12 point font, times new roman) on the nature, consequence, and origin of what you view to be the most pressing urban or metropolitan problem. Use both broader evidence to make your argument and Burien-specific information to bolster your argument. Your audience is a major political player whose attention you want to get about this issue (and who has time to read it!) Make sure to:

- a. Define the problem
- b. Justify that attention should be paid to this problem. Why is it the most pressing urban or metropolitan problem?
- c. Briefly explain the major economic, social, or political trends that have influenced the problem.
- d. Briefly describe the policy solutions or legislation that have dealt with the problem at national, regional, or local levels and evaluate their success or unintended consequences.

In your essay, make sure to cite pertinent readings from the course or to which your classmates may have referred in their presentations. The annotated bibliographies that your classmates prepared may be useful to you, depending on which topic you choose.

You may pick your problem from the list below or argue that some other problem is the most pressing. The areas listed below are rather broad; for the purpose of your paper, you will need to narrow the scope of your problem in order to write about it in the space allowed.

- Metropolitan fragmentation
- Housing affordability for middle income people
- Concentrated poverty
- Traffic congestion
- Urban sprawl
- Fiscal competition within a metropolitan area
- Housing affordability for low-income people
- Immigration
- Terrorist threats and urban infrastructure
- Spatial mismatch
- Climate Change and Sustainable Metropolitan Regions
- The quality of urban education
- The wage and skills gap
- Residential segregation
- Neighborhood revitalization
- Gentrification and displacement
- Lack of living wage jobs
- Community economic development
- Urban crime
- Issues in defining federal urban policy
- Issues in defining regional policy
- Disaster preparedness
- Service Delivery

Make sure to take a look at the Written Communication Evaluation Criteria handed out in class and available on the course website.

Part II:

As we go through this class, we will obtain information about Burien from a variety of sources. The briefing packet represents only part of the information available. Furthermore, we'll be going to Burien

and talking with people who work and live in the community. Therefore, taking no more than one additional page, at the end of your paper create 2 bulleted lists:

1. List of the information you would have wanted from the sources used in your paper but were unable to get

And

2. Write 3 or more questions you would ask of someone who lived or worked in and around Burien if you had the chance.