

## **Assignment One: Project Report**

- Due: **February 18**
- Grade weight: **25%**
- Length: **5 to 7 pages (including reference list)**
- Citation style: **Any of MLA, Chicago, or APA are allowed, so long as one is used consistently throughout.**

### **Introduction**

This assignment is structured like a policy brief, only slightly longer. The goal of this assignment is to have you **identify an issue** that post-industrial cities face, **develop a solution** based on the current context of Hamilton or Detroit, and **target that solution** to a body, group, or agency that can implement said solution.

This report will not be structured like an essay, but will include:

1. A name for the project and an abstract.
2. A statement/summary of the problem being addressed. Here, you should tie the problem to the course by referencing readings and concepts we discuss. You should include a minimum of two course readings and a minimum of five outside readings.
3. A description of what the project looks like upon implementation.
4. A description of the target audience. This could be municipal leaders, a community foundation, a university, a government agency, or a private philanthropy.
5. A budget, a timeline, and a plan for implementation.

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### **Details**

#### **A name for the project**

- The name should be creative, catchy, and comprehensive.
- This should reflect the spirit of the program and be an “easy sell” to whomever the project is aimed toward.

#### **A short statement about the issue**

- This will provide a general summary of the issue and the proposed solution and should be written last.
- This is meant to entice the reader into the larger document.
- Should be no longer than 150 words.

#### **A more detailed summary of the problem being discussed**

- This should be a few paragraphs about the general issue that has been identified.

- Here, you should use two course readings and a minimum of five outside scholarly sources (from academic journals).
- You can use as many news articles and other sources as you'd like, though please make sure they are reputable and relevant.
- Try to be detailed and concise, selecting only the most relevant information and describing it carefully. This can be hard to balance, but it is the key to a strong assignment.
- Feel free to use tables and diagrams. If you do, please try to make them yourself. If you wish to use photos, either cite them, or make every effort to take them yourself.

#### A description of the project once it has been implemented

- This should be a few paragraphs about what policy you're proposing.
- You should use references to similar projects/policies/programs that have been implemented elsewhere.
- Your program should be unique to the context described in the section above, but not so unique that there are absolutely no relevant examples of even somewhat similar projects.
- Feel free to use tables and diagrams. If you do, please try to make them yourself. If you wish to use photos, either cite them, or make every effort to take them yourself.

#### A description of the target audience and why they should pursue this project

- Here, you'll describe who the program is aimed toward. Is it city council? A school board? The university? A social service agency? Another body with the power to make a project like this occur?
- Make sure the project is within their scope of possibilities. You wouldn't want to direct a policy proposal about cleaning up Cootes Paradise at the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (unless you could tie it specifically to their aims or an initiative the Board has presently).

#### A budget, timeline, and plan for implementation

- This section should not be too long. You're aiming to be as concise and direct as possible.
- It would be a good idea to include a timeline chart for easy visualization (see example).
- It may be hard to know exact figures, so a rough estimate of what the program will cost is okay.
- The plan for implementation should tie all the disparate pieces of the assignment together: combining the why (problem), the what (solution), and the who (agency/group/etc.).

#### A Bibliography/Works Cited

- This is fairly straightforward: a complete and correct bibliography/works cited that matches the style you have used throughout.

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Here's an example. Any text in italics and red is a tip/clarification, the rest of the text is an example:

Lastnamé, Student (*Your Name*)

0000000 (*Student Number*)

Political Science 4UP3 – Urban Politics in the Post-Industrial Era (*Course Title*)

Chris Erl (*Instructor's Name*)

18-02-21 (*Date of Submission*)

### **Project Report: The Hamilton Adopt-A-Possum Program**

#### Statement

Possums – North America's only marsupial – have identified net benefits: rarely carrying rabies and Lyme disease, possums work diligently to clear roadkill, manage tick populations, and are no threat to the human population of urban areas. Their presence in our cities provides a net benefit to all. A new program aims to encourage local residents to 'Adopt-A-Possum', in order to raise awareness about the animal and promote peaceful coexistence between Hamiltonians and their possum friends.

The Issue (*you can come up with unique section headers here, just so long as it is clear this is the detailed summary of the problem*)

Hamilton has recently become an "estimated risk area" for Lyme Disease (LD), thanks to a noted increase in the local tick population (Bron, 2021). The Federal Government has begun to address a perceived "[controversy] surrounding the clinical management of LD" through a new Federal Framework on the issue (Mac, da Silva, and Sander, 2019). The issue with the disease...

*(This section should be a few paragraphs long – you are free to include graphics as long as they are cited and graphs/tables as long as you make every effort to create them yourself)*

The Adopt-A-Possum Program (*you can come up with unique section headers here, just so long as it is clear this is where you are discussing your policy/program*)

Based on the LD, roadkill, and urban waste problem in Hamilton at present, a new and innovative solution may help tackle all these issues in an environmentally-conscious and sustainable way. The Hamilton Adopt-A-Possum Program will...

*(This section should be a few paragraphs long – you are free to include graphics as long as they are cited and graphs/tables as long as you make every effort to create them yourself)*

Target Audience *(you can come up with unique section headers here, just so long as it is clear this is where you are discussing who the report is aimed at)*

The Adopt-A-Possum Program fits well with Hamilton City Council’s Climate Change Action plan. On March 27, 2019, Hamilton City Council declared a climate emergency and began work to develop policies aimed at combating the crisis (City of Hamilton, 2021). Evidence from the United States suggests that a changing climate may create the conditions for an earlier start to the LD “season”, thanks to milder winter and spring temperatures creating ideal conditions for ticks (Monaghan, et. al., 2015). As such...

Timeline, Budget, Implementation *(you can come up with unique section headers here, just so long as it is clear this is where you are discussing the timeline, budget, and implementation)*

This project can be ready to present to the public in six months. City council should first contact local possums...

Timeframe	Step	Goals
January – March	Step 1: Passing city council motion re: program Step 2: Working with local possum groups to raise awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formalizing program</li> <li>• Working with stakeholder partners</li> <li>• Making public aware of program</li> </ul>
March – April	Step 3: Hiring local Possum Awareness Ambassadors Step 4: Possum marketing campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hiring dedicated staff to work on project</li> <li>• Creating cool possum merch</li> </ul>
April – June	Step 5: Adopt-A-Possum events around the city	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further raising awareness and generating public interest in the program</li> </ul>
July – September	Step 6: Working with possum adopters to create safe and welcoming environments for possums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One-on-one time with adopters and creation of a lasting framework for the program</li> </ul>

Table 1: Adopt-A-Possum Program Timeline (created by author)

Works Cited

Bron, Sebastian (2021) “Lyme-spreading ticks becoming increasingly common due to mild winters” *Hamilton Spectator* (May 6, 2021) <https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/2021/05/06/lyme-spreading-ticks-becoming-increasingly-common-due-to-mild-winters.html>

City of Hamilton (2021) “Climate Change Action” (accessed November 1, 2021) <https://www.hamilton.ca/city-initiatives/strategies-actions/climate-change-action>

Mac, Stephan; Sara R. da Silva; Beate Sander (2019) “The economic burden of Lyme disease and the cost-effectiveness of Lyme disease interventions: A scoping review” *PLoS ONE* 14(1): <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0210280>

Monaghan, Andrew J.; Sean M. Moore; Kevin M. Samson; Charles B. Beard; Rebecca J. Eisen (2015) “Climate change influences on the annual onset of Lyme disease in the United States” *Ticks and Tick-borne Diseases* 6, pgs 615 – 622: <https://pdf.sciencedirectassets.com/279954/1-s2.0-S1877959X15X00057/1-s2.0-S1877959X15000874/dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ttbdis.2015.05.005>

*(You do not need to separate academic and non-academic sources. And, remember: you need to have at least two class readings and five non-class-assigned academic texts cited here. Talk to me if you are having trouble finding any relevant sources.)*