

NEWS REVIEWS

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Read at least three articles about current policy issues and government activities from a daily newspaper or weekly news magazine (*Time*, *U.S. News and World Report*, *Newsweek*). A television news program (*Meet the Press*, *Face the Nation*), interview or documentary may also be reviewed/listed. Be prepared to report on these reviews in class discussing the issues involved. Do not read anecdotal or human-interest articles to fulfill this requirement. Summarize one article to turn in, using this format: Title of article, source and date, brief summary of the article, policy implications (apply course concepts) and your own reaction. Attach a copy of the article. Also list the title (and very brief description if not clear from the title) and source of the other two articles you read.

This is a weekly assignment beginning approximately the third week of the course. Students are expected to incorporate new course concepts as they are introduced each week. Initially my goal is for students to accurately identify public policy reporting and be able to identify the level (federal, state, local) and branch (legislative, administrative/executive or judicial) of the policymaking activity. Then they are expected to explain whether the policy is explicit or implicit family policy and what family behaviors or functions are addressed in the policy (see lecture slides "What Is Family Policy"). In subsequent weeks students are asked to add to their news reviews an analysis based on the dimensions of family policy (see lecture slides "Dimensions of Family Policy"). Class discussion of these assignments are very helpful in clarifying concepts for the benefit of the entire class as well as providing a forum for critiquing current policy activities.