

RESEARCH PAPER & PRESENTATION

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PAPER

Your paper must focus on a policy, program, or legislation which directly affects families. Some examples of topics are: family preservation services, parental consent statutes, covenant marriage legislation, gay/lesbian adoption, or surrogate parenting court rulings. After you've selected your topic/legislation, you should review the relevant literature to identify any social, political, historical, etc. issues which might have impacted your particular topic (e.g., specific political movements, philosophies, or social trends). Your paper should describe the policy and activities associated with it and their relevance for families. Considerable emphasis should be placed on the impact of the policy on families. Use the "family principles" and "family impact questions" (FROM TEXT) as a framework for conducting this assessment. Your paper should be approximately (10) typewritten pages. You are required to use professional sources and may use relevant articles from newspapers and news magazines. Proper referencing and style are expected.

PRESENTATION

Your paper topics will determine the specific policy content for the latter class sessions. Paper topics will be grouped by topic (e.g., parental rights, adoption, marriage policy, etc.) and you will be required to present a 15-20 minute summary of your paper. Each student must prepare a one-page reference list briefly defining the legislation and listing ten relevant references on her/his topic to share with each class member. Paper, topic selection and format will be discussed further in class.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

You are to do the paper described above and then expand and refine it one step further. Of the issue/legislation you've identified how would you go about studying it further? Write a methods section identifying the population and samples of people you would use and how you would get them. What instrumentation would you use/develop? What particular issues would be problematic?