

Mock Hearing Guidelines

This assignment is designed to give you experience with:

1. Researching a health policy issue.
2. Developing a position on a policy issue that is in accordance with an organization's mission, values and priorities.
3. Negotiate with representatives of other organizations a collaborative approach to testimony and influencing policymakers.
4. Present your position on a policy issue in a clear, concise and compelling manner.

You will complete this assignment from the perspective of your assigned interest group—not your own perspective.

You will sign up for a topic and reach out to the other students who signed up for the same topic. Determine whether each student will be in support or opposition to the policy. Support can include amending the bill, if the topic is a bill. Form a coalition of supporting students (organizations) and one of opposing students (organizations). You'll name your coalition and work with the other students in it to flesh out our positions that you will present at the mock hearing. You may not take a position that is in opposition to another member of your coalition. Your coalition must be united about its overall position on the policy issue.

Each member of the coalition will have 2 minutes to make an argument. You can use notes for this part of the hearing. Develop a clear, concise, compelling position to present. After all members of the coalition have presented, the "senators" will pose questions to the members of the coalition.

Your grade will be combination of your coalition's presentation and your individual presentation.

One week before hearing, you are to provide the faculty with a one-page synopsis of the policy issue that includes online links to the bill or law or regulation. This should be constructed in an objective, unbiased way with input from both the supporting and opposing side. It should not include your positions on the policy issue—just a description of what is in the bill or law or regulation. This will be posted on Blackboard for all students to prepare for the mock hearing and some to serve as senators.

On the day of the mock hearing, you are to turn in to the faculty a hard copy of your prepared statement. If you prefer to speak from notes, that is fine; just hand in your outline of notes.