**This was the original assignment, but it has been revised due to COVID-19**

**Please choose ANY US government meeting\*\* ALL extra documentation will not be needed since everything is virtual.\*\***

Civic Engagement Project Directions



**Civic Engagement Project (100 points)**

In this course, you are also required to perform a *civic engagement project*.This assignment is also listed in the main lessons section of the course site. **Overall, the goal is for you, the student, to become more socially and civically connected to the needs of your community and to promote the importance of community engagement and community service**.

**Civic engagement** leads to higher **social capital**, which is the networks of relationships among people who live and work in a particular society, enabling that society to function effectively. Scientific studies show that civic participation affects not just individuals, but entire communities. Neighborhoods with higher levels of civic participation have a greater sense of community, lower levels of crime, and citizens who are healthier and happier. States and countries with greater proportions of civically engaged citizens have lower rates of disease, mental illness, and suicide. They, too, have lower crime rates, as well as having greater economic prosperity, better-educated children, and more effective governments.

**NOTE: This assignment is divided into two parts.**

**PART 1 (50 Points)**

**Two Options (Select One):**

1. Volunteer at a non-profit organization or interest group, submit the signed [**SPC Release of Liability Form**](https://mycourses.spcollege.edu/content/enforced/172795-OFR_POS2041_1031_0545/SPC%20Liability%20Release.doc?_&d2lSessionVal=vvV3Mrbeg9uD1ARDp8GSGNpJE&ou=257377), complete the [**Engage for Change Survey**](https://web.spcollege.edu/survey/28979) (<https://web.spcollege.edu/survey/28979>) and submit its confirmation page, and turn in a summary paragraph in at least 200 words; OR
2. Attend in person one local government meeting in its entirety, provide proof of attendance, submit the Engage for Change survey and its confirmation page, and submit a summary paragraph in at least 200 words.

**Option 1 Requirements**:

* **Volunteer for at least five (5) hours at a non-profit or civic organization that serves your community.**
  + **Your volunteer work must be current, completed during the course of our class.**
  + **Submit a summary paragraph of your volunteer work in at least 200 words.**
    - The paragraph should specifically describe the *organization that you volunteered for and the nature of work that you performed*. *It should also discuss some reasons as to why civic engagement is important.* Support this paragraph with one to two academic sources in proper APA citation format.
  + **Submit**a signed[**SPC Release of Liability Form**](https://mycourses.spcollege.edu/content/enforced/172795-OFR_POS2041_1031_0545/SPC%20Liability%20Release.doc?_&d2lSessionVal=vvV3Mrbeg9uD1ARDp8GSGNpJE&ou=257377)
  + **Complete** the [**Engage for Change Survey**](https://web.spcollege.edu/survey/9589)and **Submit** a screenshot of the survey confirmation page in the assignment dropbox.
  + Submit all of the aforementioned documents into the assignment dropbox by the due date.
    - Two Options to Submit the Required Documents
      1. Take a picture of each document, copy-and-paste all of them into the MS Word document with the reflection paragraph, and upload it into the assignment dropbox.
      2. Print, fill, sign, scan and pload*the document in the assignment dropbox.*
    - ***Failure****to submit any of the aforementioned documents will result in****no credit being given for the assignment.***

**Option 2 Requirements:**

* + **Attend in person a local government meeting in its entirety.**
    - **You are required to** provide a proof of attendance, including the name, signature, and official contact information (phone number or e-mail) of the government official or meeting organizer.
      * Click on the following hyperlink for [Local Government Meeting Proof of Attendance.](https://mycourses.spcollege.edu/content/enforced/233686-OFR_POS2041_900_0570/Local%20Government%20Meeting%20Proof%20of%20Attendance.docx?_&d2lSessionVal=vvV3Mrbeg9uD1ARDp8GSGNpJE&ou=257377)
    - **Examples of Local Government Meetings**
      * *Pinellas County Government calendar*: <http://go.activecalendar.com/pinellascounty/>
      * *Hillsborough County Government Calendar:* <http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/government/meeting-information/agendas-recaps-and-minutes>
  + **Provide a summary paragraph of the government meeting in at least 200 words.**
    - The paragraph should specifically describe the *type of the meeting and issues discussed in it*. *It should also discuss some reasons as to why civic engagement is important.* Support this paragraph with one to two academic sources in proper APA citation format.
  + **Complete** the [**Engage for Change Survey**](https://web.spcollege.edu/survey/9589).
    - Submit the survey confirmation page in the assignment dropbox
  + ***Failure****to submit any of the aforementioned documents will result in****no credit being given for the assignment.***

**Important Information**

* **Part 1 is due March 22, 2020.**
* Do not e-mail your assignment/documents!
  + E-mailed assignments will not be considered for grading.

**PART 2 (50 Points)**

In this part, you are required to submit a reflection paper about the civic engagement experience in at least 1000 words.

**NOTE: You must complete Part 1 of the assignment to receive credit for Part 2.**

**Option 1 Requirements**(if you volunteered in Part 1):

* Your civic engagement research paper must be in at least 1000 words.
  + The penalty for not following the length requirement will range from 20% to 70%.
* Describe the vision and mission of the organization you volunteered for.
* Describe the presenting issue facing the community.
* What did you learn about the specific community or societal concern?
* What kinds of leadership and civic engagement did you witness?
* Did you learn anything new about yourself after the experience?
* What are the strengths and weaknesses of this organization?
* Find 2 articles/sources that discuss the significance and/or impact of civic/community engagement on the surrounding community
* Summarize the findings of the articles.
* Answer the following question:
  + In your view, what is the most important aspect of civic engagement & what would you do to promote civic engagement to your friends & family?

**Option 2 Requirements** (if you attended one local government meetings in Part 1):

* Your civic engagement reflection paper must be in at least 1000 words.
  + The penalty for not following the length requirement will range from 20% to 70%.
* Describe the issue(s) debated in each meeting.
* Describe how members of the government dealt with the issue(s).
* Describe the process how the meeting was conducted.
* Describe the presenting issue facing the community.
* What did you learn about the specific community or societal concern?
* What kinds of leadership and civic engagement did you witness?
* Did you learn anything new about yourself after the experience?
* Find two (2) articles/sources that discuss the significance and/or impact of civic/community engagement on the surrounding community
  + Briefly summarize the findings of the articles.
  + Answer the following question:
    - In your view, what is the most important aspect of civic engagement & what would you do to promote civic engagement to your friends & family?

***Project Format***

* The length of your response paper must be of **no less than 1000 words**, *excluding the title, abstract, and reference page(s)*.
* Your project must be in double-spaced pages in a *Microsoft Word Format*, 12 font size, and 1(one) inch margins.
* **The project must be written in the *APA Writing format*.**
  + See the following sample paper for more information about how your paper should look like structurally. [**https://depts.washington.edu/owrc/Handouts/Hacker-Sample%20APA%20Formatted%20Paper.pdf**](https://depts.washington.edu/owrc/Handouts/Hacker-Sample%20APA%20Formatted%20Paper.pdf)
  + The penalty for not following the APA writing format will range from 10% to 50%.

**Important Information**

* Do not e-mail your documents and reflection paper! E-mailed materials will not be considered for grading.
* Your essay **Turnitin originality report should not be higher than 30%.**
  + Revise and resubmit your essay within the due date if it is necessary.
  + Penalties for not complying will range from 5% to 50% points.
  + [Retrieving Turnitin Originality Reports in MyCourses Student Tutorial](https://mycourses.spcollege.edu/d2l/lor/viewer/view.d2l?ou=61227&loIdentId=2264)
* **Avoid**copy-and-paste and unnecessary quotations.
  + **Use paraphrasing instead of quoting.**
    - You should use quotations only when the same idea cannot be stated differently or when doing so would diminish its academic value. The latter is not applicable in our case and the former is rarely needed.
* **Provide, when paraphrasing,** in-text citations and references in the APA writing format.
  + Penalties for not providing in-text citations and/or references will range from 10% to 50% points.
  + See the following links for specific information on how to provide in-text citations and references.
    - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLlLIYxeGls> (in-text citations)
    - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MiL4H09v0gU> (quoting v. paraphrasing)
    - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HO9ABVfaLGE> (Web citation)
    - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8qGZkgnxSk> (Article citation)
* **Plagiarism will not be tolerated.**
  + A failing grade for the assignment and/or the course will be awarded pursuant to the *SPC Academic Integrity Policy*. <https://go.spcollege.edu/AcademicHonesty/>
* **Late papers** **will not be accepted** unless they involve **documented emergencies**.

**Submission and Turnitin.com**

* The Dropboxes utilize [Turnitin.com](http://turnitin.com/) to help detect plagiarism.
* If you experience a technical problem and it impedes your ability to submit the assignment/exam properly, it must be documented and verified by the SPC technology helpdesk (727) 341-HELP. In addition, you must contact me before the due date/time to let me know if you have a technical problem.
* **Make sure to save a copy of all your work outside of MyCourses. It is a good idea to frequently save your work in case of technical problems.**
* You must submit the paper in Word (.doc or .docx), .rtf or .pdf document format.

IMPORTANT--Locating Non-Profit Organizations and Scheduling Volunteer Work

**Locating Non-Profit Organizations and Scheduling Volunteer Work**

To find non-profit organizations for the first option of the project, volunteer work**, call 211 or navigate through the following link.**

[**http://211tbc.bowmansystems.com/**](http://211tbc.bowmansystems.com/)

**This direct link takes you to the page to search for non-profit organizations and services as well.**

**You can indicate the location/city and choose a category.**

**(**food, housing & utilities, clothing & household items, transportation, legal & public safety, education, health/wellness/dental, employment, income support, individual & family support, volunteer opportunities, mental health & addictions, environment/arts/recreation, disaster services, consumer, information, and municipal services**).**

**You may also download the app for your iPhone via the following link:**[**http://211connects.org/211-connects-apps/**](http://211connects.org/211-connects-apps/)

\*\*\* will attach a copy of the local resources provided by professor but was told it can be any government or non-profit organization\*\*\*