

MWRITE Policy Brief Guidelines

The policy briefs are our MWRITE assignments for this term-You will turn in a draft, give and receive feedback on these drafts, receive feedback from the MWRITE fellow and then turn in a final version of the brief. The goal of this assignment is to summarize for a country of your choice a key issue in women's health or children's health (Brief 1) or chronic disease or infectious disease (Brief 2) and what might be done address the issue in cost-effective ways. Your brief should be written as a policy brief from you, an aide in a low-resource country, to the Minister of Health. Each brief should be 3 pages long, double-spaced, in 12 point Times New Roman or Arial font with one-inch margins. It must not be longer.

Each brief will be graded based on:

1. · Following the guidelines of the assignment
2. · Clarity
3. · Appropriate use of the evidence and data, both about your country and comparative situations
4. · Reasonableness of your conclusions.

Your brief needs to be written in a manner that will allow the aide(you) to inform the Minister of Health about your recommendations in 5 minutes in a car on the way to some meeting. The brief should start with a single introductory paragraph that summarizes for the minister all of the points you want to make. That summary paragraph would read something like:

“About xxx people die every year of tuberculosis (TB) in our country. The incidence of TB is YYY (Skywalker, 2016). About UUU, people in our country get drug-resistant TB every year and about XX% of those who are infected with HIV have active TB disease (WHO, 2015). TB affects largely the urban and rural poor and stems from poverty, general ill health, and the lack of coverage of our health services. TB causes illness for an extended period, stops people from working, causes them to spend large amounts on health, and leads many families into poverty (Eagle, 2020). Direct observed therapy (DOTs) is a low cost approach to TB diagnosis and treatment that we are not using sufficiently. We must immediately expand our DOTs program, starting in the north, where the disease burden is highest. We must also pay special attention to the diagnosis and management of drug-resistant TB and to TB/HIV co-infection. I expand on these comments below.”

Each paper must begin with this type of “one paragraph tells all summary.”

The paper should answer the following questions:

- What is the nature and magnitude of the problem?
- Who is affected by it?
- What are the economic and social consequences of the problem?
- What priority steps do you recommend be taken to address the problem?
- What is your rationale for these recommendations?

(Remember you may need to look to other countries for evidence that your approach would be a good fit). Note: while you might briefly mention other steps, the length of the assignment only gives you space to discuss one approach in detail. In order to do this well you will need to look at both data sources and descriptions of successful approaches.

Please remember to cite your sources. Please note that in the “real world” you would also have to tell the minister how much your recommendations would cost and how she/he might pay for them. I am sparing everyone that need, since this is an introductory course. However if you would like to add some cost effectiveness rationale to strengthen your argument feel free to do so.

N420 Brief 1 Draft

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Criteria	Ratings	Pts
This criterion is linked to a Learning Outcome Introductory Paragraph Summarizes problem, urgency and potential solution or policy change	This area will be used by the assessor to leave comments related to this criterion.	2 pts
This criterion is linked to a Learning Outcome Nature and magnitude of the problem Problem defined, magnitude discussed, regional comparisons used where appropriate	This area will be used by the assessor to leave comments related to this criterion.	1 pts
This criterion is linked to a Learning Outcome Who is affected? Provides information that will allow prioritization of where/for whom solution or resources should be directed	This area will be used by the assessor to leave comments related to this criterion.	1 pts
This criterion is linked to a Learning Outcome Economic, social or other important consequences Discusses consequences of not addressing the problem and the benefits of addressing the issue or changing the approach to the issue	This area will be used by the assessor to leave comments related to this criterion.	1 pts
This criterion is linked to a Learning Outcome Priority Steps or Recommendations Identifies a few priority recommendations which make sense and may be feasible - note it may work best to focus on a single recommendation or intervention	This area will be used by the assessor to leave comments related to this criterion.	4 pts
This criterion is linked to a Learning Outcome Rationale Provided rationale and backed up with evidence that the approach could work based on similar programs elsewhere, or evidence from pilot programs	This area will be used by the assessor to leave comments related to this criterion.	4 pts
This criterion is linked to a Learning Outcome Clarity Well organized argument, clearly written, minimal grammatical errors	This area will be used by the assessor to leave comments related to this criterion.	1 pts
This criterion is linked to a Learning Outcome Following Guidelines Guidelines include double spaced, no more than three pages, citations used appropriately, formatted appropriately, focused on a low-resource country	This area will be used by the assessor to leave comments related to this criterion.	1 pts
Total Points: 15		

MWRITE POLICY BRIEF- Revisions and final draft

Please submit your revised policy brief here.

Remember to incorporate changes based on the feedback you received from your MWRITE fellow and from your peers.

Here are some tips about how to do this:

Revising writing means re-seeing it, and the process of reading and commenting on the writing of others as well as receiving feedback from your peers gives you a way of seeing your own writing differently. For this part of this writing-to-learn assignment, you are asked to improve your response, by revising it to better.

Revision Guidelines:

- Re-read the assignment and grading rubric.
- Re-read the rubric and consider what a complete and effective response would include, noting what you do not fully address.
- Make a list of the content that you thought was effective while reviewing the drafts from your peers.
- Read and summarize the feedback you received from others.
- With these items in-mind, re-read your draft and mark places where you can improve the content.
- Revise and submit your response.

N420 Brief 2 Revision

You've already rated students with this rubric. Any major changes could affect their assessment results.

N420 Brief 2 Revision

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<p>This criterion is linked to a Learning Outcome Priority Steps or Recommendations Identifies a few priority recommendations which make sense and may be feasible - note it may work best to focus on a single recommendation or intervention</p>	<p>This area will be used by the assessor to leave comments related to this criterion.</p>	<p>4 pts</p>
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<p>This criterion is linked to a Learning Outcome Revision Revise the final submission to incorporate feedback from your peers and writing fellows in order to improve the final brief.</p>	<p>This area will be used by the assessor to leave comments related to this criterion.</p>	<p>3 pts</p>
<p>Total Points: 25</p>		