

## PAPER - INSTRUCTIONS

The research paper should be turned in by the beginning of class on the date due, to my email address (tkalino@siue.edu), from your University email address, with an attached Word file, and a Subject Line similar to the following: POLS 392 - Research Paper. The name of the Word file should be <lastname><firstinitial>ResearchPaper392.doc. An example KalinowskiTResearchPaper392.doc. The extension may be .docx

- 1) Cover page with your name, course, and description of the assignment.
- 2) Page setup 8.5" x 11", 12 pt proportional font, double spaced, 1 inch margins.
- 3) The purpose of this assignment is to draft a study to be undertaken to investigate the **non-economic** societal effects (if any) on the judges and guards, that are involved in the death penalty process. More specifically:

Many people argue that the death penalty is different in kind from other types of punishment and that the practice should be discontinued. The question you should be designing a study to answer is whether the death penalty is different in kind based upon the societal burden borne by the judges, and the peace officers that must handle those sentenced to death, that participate in the process as part of the American judicial system. You should NOT investigate any economic burdens.

You are setting up a comprehensive investigation of the theories and observable implications that would help you draw a conclusion whether the burden, on the judges and peace officers, of handling a death penalty case, is different than any other type of case. You should develop a method of collecting observable data for comparison purposes to help you draw any conclusions. You should explain the theory related to each group that you would investigate, identify the observable data you would collect from each group (explaining how each piece of data would aid the investigation), specify independent and dependent variables, and identify any control or comparison groups from which you would collect similar data.

You should develop at least two sets of questions.

You cannot just ask these questions of judges and peace officers involved in death penalty cases. While you might ask if there are differences for them for different types of cases that they handle, you also need to ask the same questions of judges and peace officers that do not handle death penalty cases. If you do not, how can you tell if there is a burden that is distinctly different from that caused by other types of cases. This means that you need to identify other types of judges and peace officers to direct the same questions to. *This requires that your questions be crafted in such a way that they can be presented to someone who is not dealing with a death penalty case.*

4) The citation method used should be the one preferred by the degree granting department for your major. Over citation is almost impossible. Try to make sure to put information in your own words. While 1-3 sentences might be quoted, large blocks of text should not be used unless absolutely necessary. In this rare instance, block indent and single space the quotation.

The book by David R. Dow will be the primary source for which to understand what the burden(s) on the judges and peace officers involved in death penalty might be. However for this type of study, you will need sources that explain how your questions will allow you to draw conclusions about the specific burden you are investigating. For example, if you are looking to see if a person is depressed, you may ask if the person was depressed -- but what if that person is unaware of the symptoms of depression? The better approach would be to ask the person if they have specific symptoms. You will need a source from which you acquired your list of symptoms for depression.

5) There should be no first person statements (unless you are asking the survey respondent to agree with a statement as part of your study). Contractions should be avoided as well.

6) The excessive use of pronouns when there is no antecedent is one of my pet peeves. For example: "It is going to take a lot of work this semester to make an A in this class." should be rewritten as: "Making an A in this class this semester will take a lot of work." When proof reading your paper, look for sentences with IT IS, IT WOULD, THIS SHOULD, THERE ARE, and the like -- then rewrite those sentences.

7) List the articles, books, cases, and statutes cited (this may be entitled as Bibliography, Authority Cited, List of Works Cited, or the like).

8) You will not be undertaking the actual study. You are drafting questions to submit to the identified groups. In other words, you are doing everything up to the point of submitting the questions to the groups to be studied.

9) If there is any confusion about your topic, please discuss with me.

A sample outline for the paper might be (but is not required to be) as follows:

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**(this is an overview of the paper; explain what is to be studied, why it should be studied [and the answer is NOT "because that's what the assignment said to do"], how it is to be studied; identify what types of observable data is to be collected and what conclusions might be drawn from such data)**

#### **RESEARCH QUESTION(S)**

**(an explanation of what's to be studied)**

#### **THEORIES**

**(your hypotheses and reasons for making such hypotheses - which is the most likely place citations will be needed)**

#### **STUDY SUBJECTS AND OBSERVABLE IMPLICATIONS**

**(identify the groups studied; explain why; identify theories associated with each group; note observable data and possible implications; provide a list of questions for each group explaining what you hope to get from each question and note the independent and dependent variables)**

#### **CONTROL/COMPARISON SUBJECTS AND OBSERVABLE IMPLICATIONS**

**(note similarities and dissimilarities between the control groups and the comparison groups)**

#### **OMISSIONS AND RIVAL EXPLANATIONS**

**(theories and groups not studied with an explanation as to why)**

## Grading Rubric

### Content:

75 points –

- 40 points for developing the material for the judges and their comparison group(s)
- 35 points for developing the material for the guards and their comparison group(s)

### Writing:

25 points – earned as each of the following are judged on a 5 pt scale:

- 1) Clear and informative
- 2) Organized, consistent, and unified.
- 3) Study questions are clear, relevant, and explained
- 4) Citations are proper and appropriate
- 5) Grammar, punctuation, spelling, layout, and word choice are proper and free from errors.