

Human Rights (Spring 2022) Infographic Proposal

Due to Brightspace: January 27 (by the start of class)

This semester, you will be advocating for a change in the response to a human rights issue through an infographic, a blog post, a letter to an official, and a podcast. You have quite a bit of leeway in the exact issue that you choose. I only have two requests: First, keep the issue as local as possible. Maybe this means that you'll be addressing an issue in Macon/Cochran/Dublin. Maybe it means you'll be addressing an issue in Georgia more broadly—or even in the United States as a whole. And second, I ask that you incorporate input from a local organization working on this issue in at least one stage of the process.

The first part of the advocacy assignment is an infographic. This is a good place to introduce your topic. Assume that anyone looking at your term project is going to have access to all four pieces of it and that this is the first thing that they'll see. What do they need to know to understand why your chosen topic is a human rights issue and why the current response to it (typically by the government, although not always) needs to change?

As we discussed in class, your infographic will need to use images, charts, text, colors, sources, and other elements in order to convey information to your reader as quickly and effectively as possible. That makes this a creative task as much as it is a research task! The rubric I will be using to grade your final product (that we confirmed as a group in class) is included on the final page of this document.

This document is your proposal for the infographic. Its primary role is to communicate to me that you've settled on a topic (although there is some wiggle room for switching topics between now and the final draft) and have started thinking about how to communicate important information about this topic in a visual way. All you need to do to complete this assignment is fill in the boxes below and submit the completed document to Brightspace. It is due by the start of class on **January 27th**. The first draft of your infographic is due by the start of class on **February 3rd**. The final draft is due by class time on **February 17th**.

Infographic Proposal:

For what general cause will you be advocating this semester?

[Type here]

What pieces of information will it be necessary to convey to give your reader a good introduction to your human rights topic? Do you have any sense of the visuals you will use to convey this information?

[Type here]

What program do you think you will be using to create your infographic? (Recommended websites are [Canva](#), [Venngage](#), and [Piktochart](#), all of which offer at least some degree of free access. Document processing programs like Microsoft Word are not going to have the capabilities necessary to produce a quality infographic.)

[Type here]

Is there a local organization working on this issue? Have you reached out to them or developed a plan to do so?

[Type here]

Previous examples of this assignment can be found on my [website](#). Do you give your permission to have your work shared in this way? (There is no penalty associated with saying no.)

[Type here]

Do you have any other thoughts, questions, or concerns about this element of the project?

[Type here]

Infographic Rubric (5 points)

Name:

Topic:

Category	Points Earned/Points Available
Visuals (ADA compliant, visually pleasing, not more reliant on text than on graphics)	/1 point
Sources (communicating reliable sources, 3 minimum)	/1 point
Facts (4-7 facts, enough historical context)	/1 point
Effective (clarity, everything works together)	/1 point
Completion	/1 point
Total:	/5 points

Comments:

Human Rights (Spring 2022) Blog Post Proposal

Due to Brightspace: February 24 (by the start of class)

This is the second part of your advocacy project, your term project for this semester. In the first part of your project, you identified a broad human rights issue. With this assignment, you'll be narrowing your focus.

Blog posts should examine **one or two events** that qualify as abuses of the human right that you have chosen. You should also present a framework for helping your readers understand why this is a violation of human rights and what accountability mechanisms exist for the actors involved.

Some questions you'll want to consider:

- What are the details of the event?
- What background do your readers need to be given to fully understand the event?
- Why is this a human rights violation?
- What accountability mechanisms exist?
- What are the next steps?

As we discussed in class, blog posts should be between **600 and 800 words** and submitted as **Word documents**. They must reference at least **5 reputable sources**, which should be included in the text as **hyperlinks** and at the end as a references list. You may also include links for additional resources for readers in a separate list. Neither references nor resources lists count against word counts.

Other formatting and content requirements to keep in mind include **correct grammar** (although **informal language** is both welcome and encouraged), **useful section headings**, and an effective use of visuals. Unlike the previous assignment, you are not required to make these visuals; you can pull them from other sources. Just make sure to include the sources in your references list and in the descriptions of the images! You must use **at least two visuals**, and at least one of the visuals must be something other than a photo (like a map, a graph, or an infographic).

This document is your proposal for the blog post. Its primary role is to communicate to me that you've settled on your topic (although there is some wiggle room for switching the events you'll discuss between now and the final draft) and have started thinking about how to communicate important information about your events. All you need to do to complete this assignment is fill in the boxes below and submit the completed document to Brightspace. It is due by the start of class on **February 24th**. The first draft of your blog post is due by the start of class on **March 3rd**. The final draft is due by class time on **March 17th**.

The grading rubric that we finalized as a class is included on the last page of this document. For more information on constructing a blog post, check out the resources [here](#) and [here](#).

Commented [WA1]: Because I'll be doing the final formatting of these, you can use comments (like this one) to highlight places in the text where you would like the hyperlinks to go. Just paste the URL in the comment box, and I'll take care of the rest.

Blog Post Proposal:

Which event or events will you focus on for your blog post?

[Type here]

What is at least one source that you will reference?

[Type here]

Who is a local organization working on this issue? Have you reached out to them or developed a plan to do so? (Remember that this is a requirement that should be met for at least one aspect of your term project.)

[Type here]

Do you have any other thoughts, questions, or concerns about this element of the project?

[Type here]

**Human Rights (Spring 2022)
Blog Post Rubric (5 points)**

Name:

Topic:

Category	Points Earned/Points Available
Formatting requirements (600-800 words, grammar, organized/structured)	/1 point
Visuals (2 min, cited, cannot all be photos)	/1 point
Sources (formal references list—APSA style—and in-text hyperlinks; 5 min)	/1 point
Effective (clarity, everything works together, compelling)	/1 point
Completion	/1 point
Total:	/5 points

Comments:

Human Rights (Spring 2022) Letter to an Official Proposal

Due to Brightspace: March 31 (by the start of class)

This is the third part of your advocacy project. In the first part of your project, you identified a broad human rights issue. In the second, you identified recent events that are abuses of the category of human rights you have chosen and identified possible avenues for accountability. With this assignment, you will be taking action yourself by writing to an elected public official (local, state, or national) and asking them to change the public response to a human rights issue (keeping to the category of rights that you have used for your previous assignments).

Letters to public officials should all share some common characteristics (although there is some flexibility in exactly how you meet these requirements):

- Contact information for you and for the official
- An introduction of yourself and your connection to this issue
- A summary of the issue you're concerned about—what it is, who it impacts, why it matters, etc.
- A call to action (and justification for this particular call to action)—voting for/against a bill, amending a bill, introducing a new bill, funding a specific program, announcing support for/opposition to an issue, etc.

Letters should be about 1 page long (and no more than 1.5 pages), typed in 12-point font and single-spaced. For this one assignment, if you have a preferred font that isn't Times New Roman (I'm partial to Garamond for letters, myself), that's fine—just keep it professional and [serif](#). They should include 3-5 relevant facts to support your case, which must be cited with reputable sources—if you can, consider hyperlinking the relevant text; otherwise, including a short works cited list at the very end is fine.

This document is your proposal for the letter. Its primary role is to communicate to me that you've settled on your specific topic (although there is some wiggle room for switching before the draft stage) and have started thinking about how to convey important information in it. All you need to do to complete this assignment is fill in the boxes below and submit the completed document to Brightspace. It is due by the start of class on **March 31st**. The first draft of your letter is due by the start of class on **April 7th**. The final draft is due by class time on **April 14th**.

The grading rubric for this assignment is included on the last page of this document. For more information on constructing a letter to a public official, consider the following resources:

- Example Letters: [American Library Association](#) and the [National Coalition for the Homeless](#)
- Finding Contact Information: [usa.gov](#)
- General Tips: [ACLU](#) and the [Union of Concerned Scientists](#)

Letter Proposal:

What will your specific call to action be?

[Type here]

What is at least one source that you will reference?

[Type here]

Who is a local organization working on this issue? Have you reached out to them or developed a plan to do so? (Remember that this is a requirement that should be met for at least one aspect of your term project.)

[Type here]

Do you have any other thoughts, questions, or concerns about this element of the project?

[Type here]

As a side note, if letter writing for change is something you're really interested in, Amnesty is very involved in this area. Check out their Write for Rights [here](#).

**Human Rights (Spring 2022)
Letter Rubric (5 points)**

Name:

Topic:

Category	Points Earned/Points Available
Formatting requirements (1-1.5 page single spaced, grammar, organized/structured, directly addressed)	/1 point
Facts (3 min., 5 max)	/1 point
Call to action (call to vote for or veto or amend a certain bill, institute a specific policy, funding a specific program, announce support for/opposition to an issue, etc.)—pick one or two	/1 point
Effective (clarity, everything works together, compelling)	/1 point
Completion	/1 point
Total:	/5 points

Comments:

Human Rights (Spring 2022)
Podcast Proposal
Due: April 21 (by the start of class)

This is the final part of your advocacy project. In the first part of your project, you identified a broad human rights issue. In the second, you identified recent events that are abuses of the category of human rights you have chosen and identified possible avenues for accountability. In the third, you took action yourself by writing to an elected public official to advocate for a change in the policy response to your human rights issue. In this assignment, you will record an episode of a podcast to suggest ways for the average person to get involved in addressing the abuse of human rights that you've chosen.

A podcast "is an audio programme, just like Talk Radio, but you subscribe to it on your smartphone and listen to it whenever you like" ([The Podcast Host](#)). They typically have multiple episodes, but for the sake of this assignment, you will only record a single (very short) episode. In your episode, you should:

- Introduce the human right that you'll be talking about, including by identifying any relevant international law.
- Present the abuse of that human right that you'll be focusing on, as well as any context required to help your audience understand.
- Suggest 2-4 ways that audience members can personally get involved in addressing this abuse of human rights.

You must also provide a transcript of your podcast episode to make it accessible for readers who cannot engage with the recorded version.

This document is your proposal for the podcast. Its primary role is to communicate to me that you've settled on your specific topic (although there is some wiggle room for switching before the draft stage) and have started thinking about how to convey important information about it. All you need to do to complete this assignment is fill in the boxes below and submit the completed document to Brightspace. It is due by the start of class on **April 21st**. The outline for your podcast is due by the start of class on **April 28th**. The final draft is due by the final exam period (1:00pm) on **May 9th**.

The grading rubric for this assignment is included on the last page of this document. For more information on recording a podcast, consider the following resources:

- The Podcast Host. "How to Record a Podcast (It's Easier Than You Think!)" <https://www.thepodcasthost.com/recording-skills/how-to-record-a-podcast/>
- Cawley, Christian. 2021. "5 Ways to Effortlessly Transcribe Your Podcast for Free." *Make Use Of*. <https://www.makeuseof.com/how-to-effortlessly-transcribe-your-podcast-for-free/>

- Thomson, Piper. 2019. "What Makes a Good Podcast? 5 Elements You Should Know." *Learn G2*. <https://learn.g2.com/what-makes-a-good-podcast>
- Human Rights Careers. "Top 10 Human Rights Podcasts to Listen to Right Now." <https://www.humanrightscareers.com/issues/human-rights-podcasts/>

Podcast Proposal:

What specific abuse of human rights will you be addressing in your podcast?

[Type here]

What are at least two ways that the average (motivated) individual can get involved?

[Type here]

What is at least one source that you will reference?

[Type here]

Who is a local organization working on this issue? Have you reached out to them or developed a plan to do so? (Remember that this is a requirement that should be met for at least one aspect of your term project.)

[Type here]

Do you have any other thoughts, questions, or concerns about this element of the project?

[Type here]

**Human Rights (Spring 2022)
Podcast Rubric (10 points)**

Name:

Topic:

Category	Points Earned/Points Available
The Basics (8-12 minutes long—aim for 10, easy to listen to, transcript provided)	/2 point
Context (explanation of abuse, 3-5 clearly identifiable facts)	/2 point
Ways to Get Involved (2-4, feasible, embedded in context/facts provided)	/2 point
Effective (clarity, everything works together, compelling)	/2 point
Completion	/2 point
Total:	/10 points

Comments: