

2025–2026 Public Policy Analysis Challenge Scoring Rubric—Final Round

White Paper Title: _____

Team Member Names: _____

Mentor: _____

Judge ID: _____

<i>Executive Summary: Evaluated Prior to Reading the White Paper</i>	
Criteria	Points
The problem or opportunity, including the scale and scope, was described clearly and appropriately quantified.	/ 5
The future costs and implications of maintaining the status quo were well-explained.	/ 5
Causal relationships and root causes were identified and explained convincingly.	/ 5
The recommended policy and its expected outcomes were explained clearly.	/ 5
The expected costs and benefits of the recommended policy were clearly and appropriately analyzed and compared to the status quo.	/ 5
The practicality of the new policy was addressed, including challenges and barriers to adoption and implementation.	/ 5
Key assumptions, risks, and success factors were identified and explained.	/ 5
A plan for how the effectiveness of the new policy should be evaluated over time and who will monitor was presented.	/ 5
Overall, the executive summary provided an interesting, coherent, and compelling argument that was clear and complete, with no obvious major omissions, errors, gaps, or inconsistencies.	/ 5
Overall, the executive summary was well-written (including grammar and style), well-formatted (easy to navigate), and appropriate in length (max 2 pages double-spaced).	/ 5
<i>Total Points for the Executive Summary out of 50</i>	/ 50
<i>White Paper: Evaluated Prior to Seeing the Presentation</i>	
The problem or opportunity, including the scale and scope, was described clearly and appropriately quantified using reliable and authoritative sources, and with data, tables, or graphs if appropriate.	/ 5
The future costs and implications of maintaining the status quo were well-explained.	/ 5
Causal relationships and root causes were identified and explained convincingly, with no obvious causes omitted.	/ 5
Other plausible policy options were identified and explained well.	/ 10
The expected costs and benefits of all policy options were thoroughly, convincingly, and appropriately assessed, and the tradeoffs among the options were properly analyzed and explained.	/ 10
Supporting data was properly sourced, verified, analyzed, interpreted, cited, and presented. Supporting evidence and expert opinion was credible and relevant.	/ 10

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Key assumptions, risks, and success factors were identified and explained, including any sources of uncertainty and their impact on the likely range of outcomes.	/ 5
The analysis didn't overlook any material potential externalities, secondary effects, or unintended consequences.	/ 10
Challenges and barriers to adoption and implementation and ways to resolve these challenges/barriers were properly considered, including potential regulatory, legal or constitutional issues, and potential social, political or ethical issues.	/ 10
The analysis considered how the effectiveness of the new policy should be evaluated over time, including the identification of quantitative and qualitative key performance indicators, and who will monitor.	/ 5
Overall, the white paper provided an interesting, coherent, and compelling argument that was clear and complete, with no major analytical omissions, errors, gaps, or inconsistencies.	/ 10
Overall, the white paper was well-written (including grammar and style), well-formatted (easy to navigate), and appropriate in length (max 25 pages double-spaced including tables, graphs, and references, but excluding title page and executive summary).	/ 5
You were convinced the proposed policy change would achieve the desired result. That is, the white paper presented the best policy option to address the problem/opportunity and the proposed policy change had a reasonable chance of success.	/ 10
Total Points for the White Paper out of 100	/ 100

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Presentation	
<p>The presentation captured well the major elements and conclusions of the policy analysis, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the problem or opportunity, clearly described and appropriately quantified • the future costs and implications of maintaining the status quo • causal relationships and root causes • the recommended policy and its expected outcomes • the expected costs and benefits of the recommended policy, compared to the status quo and/or other alternatives • key assumptions, risks, and success factors, including any sources of uncertainty and their impact on the likely range of outcomes • potential externalities, secondary effects, and unintended consequences • challenges to adoption and implementation and how they could be resolved (for example, potential regulatory, legal or constitutional issues, and potential social, political or ethical issues) • a plan to evaluate effectiveness, including identification of key performance indicators, and who will monitor • data/evidence referenced was from reliable, authoritative sources 	/ 60
The presentation was coherent and well-rehearsed, with smooth transitions between speakers and good pacing that facilitated comprehension and allowed adequate time for questions. All acronyms were defined.	/ 15
All team members participated in the presentation, with each speaking clearly and confidently and interacting well with one another and with the audience.	/ 15
The presentation made effective use of visual aids (e.g., graphs, tables, diagrams, bullet points). The slides did not contain an overabundance of text.	/ 15
The team members avoided an overreliance on notes or slides when speaking.	/ 15
The team demonstrated strong command of its chosen subject and of its analysis.	/ 15
The team responded directly and effectively to questions posed by judges.	/ 15
Total Points for the Presentation out of 150	/ 150

Final Judging Tally:

Executive Summary _____ White Paper _____ Presentation _____ Total _____

Comments for Team Members: