POLS 397  
Analysis Paper

# Overview

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To help you think critically about some of the major course themes, you will write two analysis papers that each respond to a set of questions. Please refer to Canvas for more information, including the due dates for each paper. All submissions will utilize [Unicheck](https://support.unicheck.com/hc/en-us/articles/360016436734-Student-s-Guide#h_808906fd-df5c-4dc7-a049-250134e2d6fe) to ensure originality and check for appropriate citations.

# Paper 1: Purpose of Public Education

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## Part 1: Description

1. According to Labaree, what are the competing purposes of public education? How have these purposes conflicted with one another and what has that resulted in? Make sure to include examples in your response, including some that you may have witnessed through your experience in the American education system.
2. Think back to the first few chapters of *Schoolhouse Burning*. According to Black, what did the Framers view as the ultimate purpose of public education and why did they believe this? Include a direct quote from Henderson that reflects this.

## Part 2: Assessment

1. Now is your time to assess how well we have lived up to the different purposes of public education. Considering what you’ve learned in the modules on public education so far (history, expansion, governance, inequality, and reform), how well have we fulfilled each of these purposes? Make sure to reference the purposes you discussed in Part 1 and tie in specific examples from the previous modules.
2. Now, consider the opposite end of the issue: how have we fallen short in fulfilling each of the purposes of public education? Make sure to reference the purposes you discussed in Part 1 and tie in specific examples from the previous modules.

# Paper 2: Contemporary Debates

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## Part 1: Setting Policy

1. First, describe the relationship between federalism and public education policy. What role does each level of government play in setting education policy and what are some examples? How are they alike and how are they different?
2. Next, choose a contemporary policy debate in education, such as reopening schools during the COVID-19 pandemic, banning critical race theory in the curriculum, or revamping civics education in response to the January 6th insurrection. Provide an overview of what is at issue and then, given what you’ve learned about education governance, explain which level of government (federal, state, or local) you think is best suited to handle this issue.

## Part 2: Reflection

1. Think back to your K-12 education years and choose a certain event or phenomena that you witnessed or experienced. For instance, did you attend a school that was predominantly one race or ethnicity? Did the curriculum in your school over-emphasize reading and math over other subjects? Briefly summarize that event or phenomena.
2. Now, take what you experienced or witnessed as a K-12 student. How does it connect to one of the modules covered in this course? Make sure to be specific on this connection, including citing any of the readings or videos from that module.

# Rubric and Format

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Each paper is worth 20 points and will be assessed using the following categories:

| **Content**  10 points | **Analysis**  5 points | **Proofreading**  5 points |
| --- | --- | --- |
| All parts of the prompt are fully addressed with adequate explanations for each section | Responses include meaningful connections to course readings, vidoes, and other content | All text is properly formatted and checked for grammar, spelling, and syntax issues |

Please use the [POLS 397 - Analysis Paper Template](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kyzPzGI_IgZZiwsjuot57oyV874j-m0IxbXfWkwnpwY/edit?usp=sharing) to ensure your paper has the correct formatting. This includes using a single-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font with 1” margins and no unnecessary headers and footers. Your paper should not exceed two pages, single-spaced. Please make sure to use footnotes as in-text citations and provide a full citation in the footnote. It is your responsibility to ensure that all ideas that are not your own are properly cited.