

Growth Policy Paper

It is time for *YOU* to *USE* the skills you've learned in school to help your community. As a part of the City of Whitefish's growth policy update, you and your classmates are being asked to make recommendations for and use Whitefish's Community Plan. Land use is: *the designation of specific territory inside city limits for particular activities, such as but not limited to: commercial activity, recreational activity, residential activity, mixed use, public events, etc.*

Research papers that pass academic muster will be submitted to city planning staff, and a select few of the best ideas will be called before the city planning board for a formal presentation in a public forum. Your research will also serve as the basis of a legislative bill you will work to pass through a classroom simulation of our Federal Congress.

Features of a Policy Paper

Policy papers are different from standard research papers in several respects:

- They are usually addressed to a **non-academic audience**, such as the public.
- They often focus on **prescriptive questions**. They may begin by diagnosing a particular issue and typically argue for a solution that will address that issue.
- Often, policy papers are focused on being **argumentative**. The intention is to convince the target audience that your position is the correct one.
- **Evidence** in support of a position is crucial. This is also important for research papers, but it is absolutely *critical* in policy papers.
- Policy papers are **written efficiently**. The audience often does not have much time and does not want to read a book on the subject.

Fundamental Requirements

Your final paper must meet the following criteria:

- Checkpoints on class calendar (-5% off final grade for each missed checkpoint)
- 3-5 *full* pages in length (includes heading, does not include works cited or appendix)
- Evidenced by at least three academic or investigative sources
- The introduction ends with a thesis statement that establishes a line of reasoning
- At least one counterclaim is refuted, rebutted, or conceded
- MLA Formatting