

Paper #4: Analytical¹ essay

Assigned: May 5

Due: May 12

Length: 5-6 pages (double-spaced, 1-inch margins, 12-point Times New Roman)

Task: Write an analytical essay that considers a current event from multiple perspectives

Context: You time traveled back to the beginning of the semester.² In a bit of inspired travel planning, you scheduled a trip to the beach for the second weekend in the semester. However, everything else in the universe went exactly the same. (Or so the Germans wanted you think.) For the purposes of this assignment, the most important thing that stays the same was President Trump's issuance of the so-called "travel ban" executive order on Friday, January 27, just as your plane touched down in Miami!

Your family knew that you were taking GOVT 103, so they wanted you to explain the executive order as best you could. The protests that happened after the issuance of the order especially piqued their interest. To placate them, you agreed to write an essay. (They expressly asked for something academic sounding.) Thankfully, time-travel you is already *finished* with the content portion of GOVT 103. You now have multiple different angles along which you can explain the executive order, both as a whole and with respect to certain constituent parts. You sit down at the typewriter, because the hipster AirBnB was cheapest, and begin to write.

Guidance: Read the executive order; it is posted to Sakai under "Writing Assignments → Paper 4 things." The folder also includes judicial decisions from Boston upholding the order and Seattle striking it down, as well as an appellate decision upholding the decision to strike it down. You may draw on these decisions in any way you want (including not at all) in your explanation of the executive order.

Use as much course material as is relevant to your analysis. Be as broad as possible. Elements from all four sections of the course (Foundations, Institutions, Public Policy, and Public Participation) are relevant to the executive order and its aftermath. Different sections may be more useful to analyze the order as a whole as opposed to particular parts of the order. You should have an argument, but the argument shouldn't be "the order is good" or "the order is bad." Think of something more sophisticated than that.

Writing goals

- 1) Use the active voice as much as possible.
- 2) Develop an argument that effectively and logically unifies the essay's constituent parts.
- 3) Demonstrate command of the material at an appropriate breadth and depth.
- 4) Clearly convey complex information at a level that an intelligent person who hasn't taken the class could understand.
- 5) Follow standard rules of grammar, syntax, and punctuation use.

¹ Analysis (n): breaking a thing down into its constituent parts in order to explain or interpret it

² FYI, you used the *Futurama* solution to the time-travel paradox. Doom radiation is some serious stuff.