UST 207: Ohio Government

Signature Assignment

Your Civic Engagement Playbook (50 points)

This assignment is your opportunity to map out how you will contribute to the civic life of your community and beyond, grounding your plans in the knowledge acquired through this course. The focus is on finding your voice in the public arena, whether as a consumer of public services, a volunteer contributing to community improvement, a citizen participating in the policymaking process, a voter making choices, or an elected official or government employee serving your community.

Importantly, this assignment will guide you in advocating for your personal values, beliefs, and preferences, ensuring your voice is communicated. Below are the key components you’ll complete over the semester:

*Finding Your Voice*

In this section, students identify and articulate their values, beliefs, and preferences in relation to civic engagement.

Explore different roles you can assume in civic engagement—as a customer, partner, citizen, voter, volunteer, elected official, or appointed official. Reflect on where you see yourself fitting in and why.

Learn how to effectively advocate for your values, beliefs, and preferences, especially in the context of policymaking. This includes understanding the avenues available for such advocacy and the nuances of influencing policy.

*Developing Engagement Strategies*

In this section, students plan specific activities or initiatives that align with their articulated values and beliefs for engaging in civic life. Students will workshop their ideas with classmates and get their feedback through a peer review process.

Explore strategies for meaningful interaction with state and local governments, including how to access services, provide feedback, and engage in the policymaking process. This exploration will extend to practical applications of your learning: identifying specific opportunities for involvement within your community. This might entail strategizing your participation in local government meetings or crafting a proposal for a community improvement initiative, thereby applying your knowledge to make tangible contributions.

*Reflection and Synthesis*

In this section, students reflect on their engagement journey, evaluate the effectiveness of their strategies, and synthesize their learning.

Culminate your assignment with a reflective essay that synthesizes your insights from the course. Discuss how you can apply what you've learned to become an active, informed participant in your local and state government, detailing the specific steps you plan to take in your civic engagement journey.

Your Civic Engagement Playbook will be assessed on your ability to critically analyze and articulate your role in civic engagement, the depth of your engagement strategies, the clarity of your advocacy plans, and the practicality of your application ideas. A strong playbook will demonstrate a thorough understanding of the mechanisms of state and local governance and a clear, actionable plan for personal civic involvement.

Instructions, including submission guidelines and deadlines, will be provided on Blackboard.