

POL 364: Milestone Three Rubric

Overview: The final project for this course is the creation of a policy brief, which scholars often draft for think tanks and research institutes with the goal of shaping policy decisions. (See the Final Project Document for more information.) In this milestone, due in Module Five, you will submit a short paper that will consist of an analysis and evaluation of at least two existing theoretical approaches used to explain the global policy issue that you have selected. The paper should include a detailed discussion that compares and contrasts the different theoretical approaches relevant to your global policy issue and should also discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the various theories, clearly specifying the theoretical approach that you think is the most effective.

The following critical elements will be addressed in this submission:

1. **Theory I:** Select a theory discussed in the course that applies to your identified problem or issue. Use this theory to explain your problem and why the problem occurred. Include at least **one** representative, peer-reviewed article that embodies the essence of the theory.
2. **Theory II:** Select a theory discussed in the course that applies to your identified problem or issue. Use this theory to explain your problem and why the problem occurred. Include at least **one** representative, peer-reviewed article that embodies the essence of the theory.
3. **Compare and contrast** the two theoretical approaches chosen. In other words, how do these two theories differ? How are they similar?
4. Evaluate the **effectiveness** of the two chosen theoretical approaches. In other words, do your findings support or refute the two theories that you have chosen? What are the strengths and weaknesses of these theories in addressing the problem?
5. **Apply** one of the theoretical approaches previously discussed that you think would be the most effective framework to address the global policy issue relevant to globalization and world politics. Justify your claims regarding why the chosen theoretical framework is the best choice to address the global policy problem.

Requirements of Submission: The theoretical approaches paper should follow these formatting guidelines: double-spaced Word document, two pages in length (not including title page and references), 12-point Times New Roman font, one-inch margins, APA format, and a minimum of two sources.

Critical Elements	Exemplary (100%)	Proficient (85%)	Needs Improvement (55%)	Not Evident (0%)	Value
Theory I	Meets "Proficient" criteria substantiated with peer-reviewed research that embodies the essence of the theory	Selects a theory and uses the theory to explain the problem and why the problem occurred	Selects a theory and uses the theory to explain the problem and why the problem occurred but does not use peer-reviewed research that embodies the essence of the theory	Does not select a theory	10
Theory II	Meets "Proficient" criteria substantiated with peer-reviewed research that embodies the essence of the theory	Selects a theory and uses the theory to explain the problem and why the problem occurred	Selects a theory and uses the theory to explain the problem and why the problem occurred but does not use peer-reviewed research that embodies the essence of the theory	Does not select a theory	10

Compare and Contrast	Meets “Proficient” criteria and uses specific, concrete examples from scholarly research to comprehensively highlight the similarities and differences	Compares and contrasts two theoretical approaches that have been used to solve the global policy, providing examples to support similarities and differences	Compares and contrasts two theoretical approaches that have been used to solve the global policy issue, but discussion overlooks relevant factors or lacks in detail	Does not compare and contrast two theoretical approaches that have been used to solve the global policy issue	20
Effectiveness	Meets “Proficient” criteria, and evaluation uses specific, concrete examples from scholarly research to substantiate claims	Evaluates the effectiveness of the two chosen theoretical approaches by including a discussion of whether the findings support or refute the two theories while evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of the theories in addressing the problem	Evaluates the effectiveness of the two chosen theoretical approaches but does not include a discussion of whether the findings support or refute the two theories, or does not evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the theories in addressing the problem	Does not evaluate the effectiveness of the two chosen theoretical approaches	20
Application	Meets “Proficient” criteria and uses specific, concrete examples from scholarly research to substantiate claims	Applies the most effective theoretical approach to address the global policy issue and justifies why it is the best choice	Applies the most effective theoretical approach to address the global policy issue but does not justify why it is the best choice	Does not apply the most appropriate theoretical approach to address the global policy issue	20
Articulation of Response	Submission is free of errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, and organization and is presented in a professional and easy to read format	Submission has no major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization	Submission has major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that negatively impact readability and articulation of main ideas	Submission has critical errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that prevent understanding of ideas	20
Total					100%