

Final Paper Assignment

The final research paper for the class will be due on Dec 16th. The paper should be 10-15 pages in length (assuming double spacing with 12 point font). You should select an important piece of legislation and follow it through the legislative process. When you research this piece of legislation, think about the following questions,

- How did the bill originate? Was it written by a member of Congress, the President, lobbyists, etc.
- Was the bill considered in committee? If so, describe the markup process
- Trace the history of the bill. Was the bill introduced in previous congresses? If so, what was different this time?
- What arguments did supporters and opponents make?
- What kinds of procedures were used to consider the bill? Was the bill considered under a special rule? Was the bill considered under reconciliation? Was a discharge petition used? etc.
- Did opponents try to modify the bill through amendment? What was the purpose of these amendments?
- Who voted for the bill and who voted against it? Was it a party line vote? What about the votes on amendments? Who were the relevant pivotal actors?
- What was the effect of the legislation after it was implemented

These are just some ideas of the types of things you should think about, not an exhaustive list of the things you should include. You should consider the following sources of information:

- Roll Call, The Hill, etc.
- Newspaper and Magazine Articles (including opinion pieces)
- www.congress.gov
- voteview.com

• Final Paper Proposal

You are required to submit a 3-4 page proposal for the final paper by November 13th. In your proposal, you should include the following,

- For the legislation you will be tracking:
 - Report at least 6 references you plan to use. These should be a mix of popular press articles, web sources, and academic articles
 - Report a summary of the path the bill took prior to becoming law, or why the bill did not successfully become law

- Provide a summary of the goals of the legislation, what the supporters thought about the legislation, and what the opponents thought about the legislation

Make sure you get my approval for your choice of legislation (you can ask me after class). Most likely, I will approve your choice.