

Draft a Policy Memo: Individual Liberty, Public Safety, and Justice

Instructions: Each of the prompts below outlines a hypothetical scenario requiring a policy response. Pick one of the three prompts below, and create a 1-2 page memo responding to the prompt of your choosing. Marshall what you have learned in this unit to outline a plan of action and to describe the justification for that plan. In developing your memo, you may want to review the Guide to Responding for composition tips and a grading rubric to self-assess your memo.

Prompts

- 1) A state begins a program of prisoner reentry that provides newly released individuals with housing, job training, and a small stipend. The total cost per person in the program exceeds the cost per person of analogous programs for non-convicts by 50%. Critics of the program argue that the program should be scaled back until the costs match. Defenders of the program argue that the expenditures are necessary. Using what you have learned in this unit and previous units, draft a policy memo supporting one side or the other.
- 2) In response to a wave of violent crime, a prominent gun manufacturer takes to the airwaves to encourage citizens to be “armed at all times.” The manufacturer’s message urges citizens to abide by all laws and acquire permits wherever necessary. Using what you have learned in this unit and previous units, draft a policy memo answering the following questions: should there be a policy response? If so, what kind? If not, why not? Be sure to use resources from subunits 3.1 and 3.2 as this scenario involves questions of free speech as well as gun-control and public safety.
- 3) In an effort to boost military recruitment and enrollment at post-secondary institutions of education, federal legislators have proposed offering conditional residency permits to undocumented immigrants who sign-up for military service or are students in good standing at qualifying schools. Using what you have learned in this unit and previous units, draft a policy memo arguing for or against such legislation.