



THE 'AINA-BASED PAPER

One component of this assignment involves writing a 750 word essay. **Each of you will be submitting your own individual essays and not working together for this part of the assignment.** Therefore, every essay submitted from your group should be different from one another. You have three different essay options to choose from:

ESSAY OPTION #1: RESEARCHING A LOCAL ISSUE

The first step of this process is to research a local issue that your NPO will work to address and investigate it in the form of a research paper. In order to do so, you will first need to identify a local issue that is important to your group. This can be anything from housing the homeless to protecting Oahu's beaches. The most important criteria to follow are: 1) You CARE about the issue! 2) You research a local issue that is impacting Oahu.

As you research the issue your NPO will address, you should consider the following:

- Why does this local issue exist?
- What is the history of the local issue?
- Is this issue cultural, historical, socioeconomic, environmental, etc?
- What kind of hard data and evidence (research) is available to further explain this issue?
- How does this issue compare to other geographical locations (state, federal, and global)?
- What evidence is there to support this?
- What are some solutions that have been posed to solve this local issue? Have they been successful? Why or why not?

Thesis Example: Homelessness is one of the most pressing issues in Hawaii. **Historically,** Honolulu has one of the largest homeless populations of all major U.S. cities. This issue is the result of several factors, including the **high cost of housing** and **the exorbitant cost of food**. Much of Hawaii's homelessness also stems from **the failure of government to intervene** in this growing problem.

ESSAY OPTION #2: RESEARCHING A SOLUTION TO A LOCAL ISSUE

Think about the local issue that your NGO/NPO will be working to address. Then, using research, critical reasoning, and your persuasive writing skills, propose a series of steps that create an overall solution addressing the issue at hand. As you propose solutions that your NPO will address, you should consider the following:

- What are the different ways to address this problem?
- Who needs to be involved in the design and implementation of this solution (legislators, taxpayers, police officers, private business owners, students, tourists, etc)?
- Should your solution require financial backing, how would you realistically fund this project (government grants, corporate sponsorships, grass-roots fundraising, private donors, etc)?
- How long might it take to design and implement this program? What would be the expected results short term (5-10 years), mid term (25-50 years), and long term (50 - 100 years)?
- Has a similar program addressing a similar issue worked elsewhere in the country or world? If so, what were the strengths of that program? What were some of the weaknesses and how would you avoid those?

A NOTE ON CHOOSING A PAPER OPTION

Both paper options require you to conduct in depth research and analysis related to the issue that you're addressing:

Option #1 asks you to research why a local issue exists.

Option #2 asks you to propose solutions to the local issue.

Keep in mind that you're free to use the writing from your essays in your websites. Therefore, it would be foolish for every member of the group to only do one of the two paper options. Option #1 will form your "Identifying the Issue" page while option #2 will form your "strategic plan."

A GRADE OPTION

In order to receive an A on paper #3, you must do some sort of primary research. In other words, you must be using one of the following as source material for your paper:

- A well documented interview with a subject related to your inquiry¹
- Qualitative Data (via survey or poll²)
- Quantitative Data (via survey or poll)

¹ By well documented, this means you must have a combination of audio, visual, email records, and/or transcripts and notes of your interview.

² All survey data must be submitted with your final essay