

Health Care Reform Research Project (120 points)



Part 1 and 2 Due: end of class Friday /Monday

Part 3 Due: end of class Tuesday (3/30)

Part 4 Due: beginning of class Wednesday/Thursday (3/31-4/1)

Part 5 Due: TBA

Overview: Healthcare reform in the US is not a new issue. It is a complicated, multi-faceted and controversial issue that is in the forefront of American politics and society. In this project you will be gathering and examining information and data about the situation of healthcare in the US, about the differing health care reform options and their consequences and then formulating your own opinion about what health care reform in the US should be.

Objectives—Students will:

- List and Explain the current major problems with health care in the US-what is it that people think needs to be reformed?
- Identify how each of the three branches is involved in the current Health Care Reconciliation Act
- Evaluate the elements and pros/cons of the current Health Reform Act and formulate an opinion about the Act
- Decide to what extent health care is a “right” or a privilege
- Formulate their own Health Care Reform proposal

Part 1: Three Branches Information (15 points)

Part 2: Background information (15 points)

Part 3: Health care reform (20 points)

Part 4: Vote-for or against the Health Reform Act (30 points)

Part 5: formulate a policy and debate (30 points)

Directions: Using the websites I provide as well as others you locate answer the following questions in note form.

Part 1: Three Branches Information

<http://www.socialworkers.org/advocacy/healthcarereform/default.asp#statements>

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/health-care>

1. How and in what ways has the executive branch involved in Health care reform? List and describe SPECIFIC actions of the President and Vice President and others

Who is Kathleen Sebelius? _____

What does the Department of HHS do?

Who is Rahm Emanuel? _____

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/cabinet>

2. How and in what ways has the legislative branch involved in Health care reform? List and describe SPECIFIC actions of congressmen (and role of key congressmen)

<http://www.speaker.gov/newsroom/legislation?id=0327>

What is CBO _____

What is their role in health care reform?

<http://www.cbo.gov/>

3. How and in what ways has the judicial branch involved in Health care reform? Or how might they be involved?

Part 2: Background Information

<http://www.medicare.gov/>

<http://www.medicaidusa.com/apply-for-medicaid-alaska/>

4. What is Medicare? What is its purpose? Who does it cover?

5. What is Medicaid? What is its purpose? Who does it cover?

6. **List and describe** at least 3-4 of the major health care problems/issues in the US that people want fixed?

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/indepth_coverage/health/uninsured/howweareinsured.html

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/indepth_coverage/health/uninsured/whoaretheuninsured.html

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/indepth_coverage/health/uninsured/international.html

<http://www.healthreform.gov/>

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/health-care>

<http://www.gop.gov/solutions/healthcare>

<http://www.cnsnews.com/news/print/52896>

interesting if you have time:

<http://www.heritage.org/Initiatives/Health-Care>

<http://www.brookings.edu/topics/health-care/Research.aspx>

<http://www.statehealthfacts.org/>

<http://www.statehealthfacts.org/healthreform.jsp>

Part 3: Health Care Reform Options

7. List and describe the major elements of the Health Reconciliation Act (the one passed that we have been reading about!)

8. In looking at your 3-4 problems from question 6 explain **if** and **how** the Health Reconciliation Act addresses each problem. Explain **if** and **how** the Republican plan would have addressed the problem.

<http://www.healthreform.gov/>

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/health-care>

<http://www.gop.gov/solutions/healthcare>

<http://www.cnsnews.com/news/print/52896>

<http://www.heritage.org/Initiatives/Health-Care>

http://money.cnn.com/2009/06/17/news/economy/republican_health_care_bill/index.htm

<http://www.health08.org/>

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Health Reconciliation Act (the one just passed)</u>	<u>Republican proposals</u>
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<http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/2010/0322/New-health-care-bill-pros-and-cons-Will-it-cut-costs>
<http://www.csmonitor.com/Money/Donald-Marron/2010/0322/New-healthcare-bill-pros-and-cons-It-expands-benefits-now-cuts-them-later>
http://www.economist.com/opinion/displaystory.cfm?story_id=15720396
http://www.economist.com/world/united-states/displaystory.cfm?story_id=15758185&source=features_box1

9. What, if any of the elements of the Health Reconciliation Act do you like? Explain why.

10. What if any of the elements of the Republican's plan do you like? Explain Why.

Part 4: VOTE

<http://millercenter.org/public/debates/healthcare>

WHITE PAPER

The Right to Health Care and the Role of Government in Health Policy (if you have time, read through first 4-5 pages...EXCELLENT discussion of health care as a right or privilege in the US)

Carolyn L. Engelhard and Arthur Garson, Jr., February 28, 2008

11. Write a letter to Senator Murkowski and Senator Begich telling them how you want them to vote and why. Letter should one page-typed, double-spaced. It must be very specific using the information from parts 2 and 3. You must choose yes or no, however you can definitely provide suggestions.