

The purpose of this paper is for you to experience and explain the concepts and theories from class by examining facets of the Affordable Care Act through research, analysis, and practical application and then expressing your ideas regarding your findings.

The following course objectives will be met upon the completion of this paper:

- analyze and evaluate an affordable care act situation, concept or issue
- apply critical thinking to the ACA issue
- review current issues regarding implementation
- articulate the affect the ACA issue has on people, organizations and events
- demonstrate your understanding of the ACA issue
- Other

Paper Specifics

There are several topic areas to select from that you will construct your paper around. Select **one** topic area and develop the paper around that topic.

- (1) Topic Selection: Email me a brief description of your topic choice based on the selection. See section on topic.
- (2) Require the appropriate research and focus - use of 3 reliable/relevant sources (in addition to material in the course. These sources are related to the ACA.

Follow guidelines on using APA references and writing techniques. All sources in your references must be cited in your text and vice versa. APA does not list sources in the reference page that are not incorporated into the paper itself. Interviews are also not listed in references page; all sources must be traceable and tangible. Thus, they are used internally within the text, but not listed in references and not counted as an official references – check APA for details on writing these internally in your paper (should you use any interviews).

- (3) Require critical analysis of your chosen ACA issue via your research...Your research/analysis makes up the main body of the paper. Here you need to develop a series of questions about the topic area—if you are doing a comparison and contrast, then what are the key questions that you need answered. Use these questions to guide your analysis and research. These questions are the basis of what you are going to write, they are the points you are making and the argument.

Keep in mind you are not just examining the ACA topic, you are providing an analysis and then detailing the effectiveness or comparing and contrasting. There will be room in here to make an argument for a direction or provide ideas to improve the ACA issue/topic. As you complete your analysis, you should be making a connection between your research and your issue by linking the ideas together. What does your research say and how does it help inform what you are arguing or attempting to point out? Be clear in how the research is connected to topic. Make implications drawn rather than just “this is an example of this...” In other words, indicate why or what your examples mean in relation to what the research says. Make some self-conclusions and connections to the research with your own logic.

Think of some main conclusions/claims/arguments you can make overall about your issue or topic at hand and how the research supports your ideas. OR identify the claims that your research is making

and use personal examples or examples from your issue to support what you are reading in the research. There are different ways you can approach this but regardless, you should have strong paragraph claims with support material while discussing research and an analysis of the topic at hand.

- (4) Logistics/organization - contain basic writing components of a "research/analysis" paper: an introduction and rationale as to why this is important to study, why are you interested in this topic, appropriate incorporation of research and literature related review of chosen topic, critical analysis of your ideas, overall conclusions and implications of the ACA topic.

In doing so, you should have general breakdowns/headings in your paper, such that your introduction provides a brief explanation of the rationale to your topic, its importance of why we should study it, your interest in the topic, and a preview of what your paper will entail.

The paper should include a synthesis of the concepts, a description of any background material needed to establish your points and clear position description of the key points you want us to know.

You should also contain clear transitions between areas. In other words, it should be very clear to your reader when you have moved on to the next section in your paper; use roadmaps to connect your ideas and provide a smooth flow to your paper. Provide main headings/any subheadings to indicate a breakdown (outline if you will) of your paper to guide your reader.

Thus, at least three sections should be labeled in your paper (I have indicated approximate pages also):

Introduction (1/2 to 1 page)

Analysis/Recommendation (any main and subheadings would be indicated here – core)

Conclusions/Implications (1ish+ page)

And with any paper or presentation, your paper should also have a strong conclusion that provides an overall summary of points covered in the paper (much like the preview). Include some final reflective thoughts such as the implications of the ACA issue and provide an explanation of what we can learn from the experience (what you have learned from doing the paper). Why is this topic of importance now that you have completed the analysis? What does all of this mean? Are there any recommendations for us? What can we do in the future to be more aware of this topic?

- (5) Typing details- require a length of a minimum 5 to 7 full pages (not counting references or appendixes), typed, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, page-numbered, 11-12 pt font (times new roman, calibri, tamoha or arial); approximately 250 words per page. APA uses Times New Roman; but something similar and easy to read is acceptable – if you need to go more than 8 pages that is fine (but I don't need a Master's thesis!); I would rather have readable font and longer than 8 pt font and not able to read – even with my reading glasses☺ You are reading 11 pt Arial right now. You do not need an abstract for your papers but should have some title and some form of header/page numbering system. These are some general writing details of typical papers though keep in mind other general writing structures of sentence structure, grammar and such when writing papers.

Turning in Papers:

Papers are due the night of class or can be emailed or sent through Blueline

Topics for the Paper – Select One

1. Compare and contrast employers without insurance before and after the ACA and their employee overall health coverage. What issues were in place before the ACA that may have been positive or negative and what issues exist now that are positive or negative. What are the long term benefits or detractions of this program?
2. Compare and contrast individual people without insurance before the ACA and then after. What issues and experiences existed and what affect did that have on health and what experiences or issues exist now with the ACA? What is the potential for their experiences now.
3. Explore the role of subsidies and compare and contrast if there were no subsidies and the effect on the success of the ACA?
4. The ACA does more than expand coverage, detail and provide how reforms will reduce healthcare costs. What reforms will be the most effective? How will reforms affect all of healthcare?
5. Assess the enrollment process and provide analysis of the effectiveness of enrolling new people, younger people and employees. How effective is the enrollment process? What can be done to augment or assist the enrollment process.
6. Assess the affect of expanding Medicaid has on the delivery of care, quality of care and costs. Should Medicaid be expanded? What are the ramifications of expansion? What happens if there is no expansion?
7. Assess the affect on the need for more healthcare professionals under the ACA? Is there going to be provider shortage? What new positions and or jobs will be needed with this reform?
8. Assess the effect of the ACA on the chronically ill that might have had limited healthcare or no healthcare before the ACA. What affect has this had on the people? What affect is anticipated because of the ACA?
9. Compare and contrast states that have fully engaged the ACA including expansion of Medicaid and the development of exchanges to states that have not.
10. Provide an analysis of the preventive programs and the long-term effects on the population adding this program to the ACA.
11. Assess how hospitals, clinics and other care providers are "faring" under the ACA? Are they adapting to the quality measures? How are they providing preventive services? How effective?
12. Provide an analysis of the overall effectiveness, to date, of the ACA. Has it been effective? If so how? If not. Why?

***As indicated, I am more than happy to spot-check particular questions on your papers. I can assist in any way.**

Additional tips/expectations for writing papers that include research

Below are general helpful hints for writing research papers:

- Sources need to be valid and related directly to your topic.
- **Be careful with Internet sources** as they are not all complete or professional (written by professionals). DO NOT use an abstract from the Internet and cite it as the whole article; read the whole article for details. All research/scholarly articles (materials online or otherwise) will identify journal titles, dates and authors; if your article does not have this information, check with me about your article – it is possible that it is NOT an appropriate article. **There are many sites that contain articles written by other students...related to particular theories – unless these are published in scholarly places or in journals, they are not acceptable.
- Discuss your ideas in such a way so as to incorporate all your sources into your thoughts. Do not just write something and cite a reference, write something else and cite a different source and so on... In other words, **do not just list one source** at a time in your paper, but intermingle your sources to back your claims/points.
- **Also, all sources in your references must be cited in your text and vice versa. APA does not list sources in the reference page that are not incorporated into the paper itself.**
- Your main arguments/claims should parallel your preview points. Again, do not worry about completing your introduction until your literature review is finished.
- Use **internal labels** for your areas covered in the literature review. Do not let this replace a transition in words; rather it just becomes a reader-friendly guide for a new area.
- Use quotes sparingly...the survey nature of the research papers do not allow for in-depth discussion or detailed quotes from the text...some short quotes here and there are okay if you want to emphasize a point, or if what author said just cannot be rewritten in your own words.
- Summarize and synthesize your sources within each paragraph as well as throughout paper.
- Keep your own voice front and center by starting and ending paragraphs with your own ideas and your own words.
- Paraphrase, using caution to represent the author's information or opinions accurately and in your own words – you still cite sources when you paraphrase.
- When typing sources and using articles within the paper, list authors as they are actually listed on the article; thus if there are three authors who wrote one article, they are not automatically typed in alphabetical sequence, rather the sequence as they appear on the article.
- References page is not typed by the order in which you used the sources; but alphabetically by sources themselves.

Cover/Grade Sheet for ACA Paper – 410-N Fall-2015

The following items are major areas of importance for the paper - please also consult your criteria as you read through your paper. Remember this is a certified writing course, thus attention to criteria is very important. Please contact me with any questions you may have about your papers. As preparation, this will help you identify any areas where you may be lacking in your paper. It is a good idea to cross-check this prior to submitting your paper. Benchmarks for your points are as followed (note that some areas below are double in points):

The below (as well as what is written in your syllabus) is a quick guide for the main paper sections:

- 0 = not there - not addressed - didn't fulfill requirements - does not meet criteria - reader says "oops"
- 1 = needs quite a bit more work - lacks proofing - difficult to understand ideas - lacking in most criteria - reader says "hmm"
- 2 = incomplete or incorrectly executed with elements - proof a bit more - lacking in some criteria - "needs work"
- 3 = average - met minimal requirements - contains a few mistakes - needs a little reworking - looks "not bad"
- 4 = shows general clarity of ideas - one or two mistakes within sections - most criteria followed - looks "pretty solid"
- 5 = clarity and depth of information/ideas - no errors - shows critical thinking - insightful - concise - extra stretch - reader says "wow"

Topic Identification and Preview

- | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| • statement of thesis/purpose statement that establishes what the paper will accomplish | | | | | | |
| • preview of issues/subtopics that will be covered in body of paper | | | | | | |

Synthesis of Research/Analysis of Topic/Topic Choice _____

****this includes not just description of but links to research and analysis of topic**

Understanding & Explanation of Research/Appropriateness

- | | 0 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 10 |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| • adequate support used for backing claims | | | | | | |
| • paraphrasing research & self-conclusions drawn from research | | | | | | |
| • paragraphs do not just end with source cite... | | | | | | |
| • research points are connected with logic and not just random sources | | | | | | |
| • literature used to argue for usefulness of current topic (articles appropriate for subtopics) | | | | | | |
| • clear/logical organizational pattern in presenting literature (divided into sections as appropriate) | | | | | | |

Depth/Integration/Analysis – not breadth

- | | 0 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| • literature is synthesized (i.e., integrated into cohesive whole versus listing one article at a time) | | | | | | |
| • each main point is maintained tightly within sections; with strong links between sections | | | | | | |
| • research intermingled; shows interconnections of research and topic at hand | | | | | | |
| • depth indicates substantive explanations (appropriate number of pages) | | | | | | |
| • clear area of research/focus on concept – main concept streamlined related to health communication and not just several little pieces of information on "a" topic | | | | | | |

Use of Sources

- | | 0 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 10 |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| • at least 3 primary scholarly sources woven in with substantial (mostly paraphrased) contributions in the paper | | | | | | |
| • valid sources for topic – scholarly articles – variety of sources – no overuse of same journal | | | | | | |
| • sources cited when needed in text - appropriateness of citing | | | | | | |
| • all sources in references used in text and vice versa | | | | | | |
| • no more than one imbedded/secondary source | | | | | | |
| • minimal direct quotations; again mostly paraphrased research with connections made by author of paper | | | | | | |
| • enough research used throughout to make claims – used when needed | | | | | | |

Links to Research in Analysis

- | | 0 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| • clear to reader there is an understanding of how research is connected to topic – links are clearly made as to how the topic/issue connects to research | | | | | | |
| • implications are drawn rather than just "this is an example of this..." – indicates why or what it means... | | | | | | |
| • synthesis of research and ideas – personal thoughts and research are mixed | | | | | | |
| • self-conclusions/connected research with logic | | | | | | |

Clear Identification & Explanation of Message/Topic/Artifact

- | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| • paper reflects what is indicated/approved in topic choice - done in timely fashion for approval – within week of paper due date... | | | | | | |

Conclusions/Implications _____/

Summary

- | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | |

References _____/**Proper Documentation**

0 2 4 6 8 10

- proper use of APA – 6th edition
- all pertinent information included
- sources complete and accurate; dates included to verify recency of sources (i.e., how identified in references)

Completeness/Appropriateness (and as per criteria)

0 1 2 3 4 5

- appropriate number of qualified sources – minimum of 5 total - all scholarly; others are in addition to 5 if used (but still need to be legit sources; no Wikipedia, blogs, general dictionaries...)
- appropriateness of overall references for topic
- recency of sources – since 2000 for the 5 main sources
- (i.e., what is used)

References page turned in/attached with paper

0 5

General Writing/Writing Style _____/**Organization of Ideas**

0 1 2 3 4 5

- clear logical transitions & connections between ideas (in words and not just labels)
- strong topical organization in paragraphs
- ideas in paper clearly parallel what was identified in preview
- clear arguments and claims - easily identified in beginning of paragraphs
- effective use of transitions and transitional language (with internal previews and reviews) effectively

Sentence Structure/Writing Style

0 2 4 6 8 10

- grammar/spelling/word structure
- punctuation/font consistency...
- subject/verb agreement - no awkward phrases
- general writing elements

Technical Structure (all elements indicated in criteria)

0 1 2 3 4 5

- neatness - margins
- length (250 words per page - appropriate pages)
- page numbered and clearly labeled areas of paper (rather than just one long flow of consciousness)

Overall Apparent Care of Completion/Formatting

0 1 2 3 4 5

- time-management in preparing the paper
- spacing/alignment/paragraph hanging/headings consistent.../overall neatness
- paper looks well put together visually
- stapled or paper clipped
- paper also loaded in Blueline2 (if hard copy not at beginning of class; other lateness penalties applied; blueline2 does not take the place of hardcopy due at beginning of class)

Lateness Penalty _____**Grand Total _____/110****Score Scaled to /15 _____**

Additional Grading Rubric for Writing Assignment

	A (4)	B (3)	C (2)	D/F (1/0)
Focus: Purpose	Purpose is clear	Shows awareness of purpose	Shows limited awareness of purpose	No awareness
Main idea	Clearly presents a main idea and supports it throughout the paper.	There is a main idea supported throughout most of the paper.	Vague sense of a main idea, weakly supported throughout the paper.	No main idea
Organization: Overall	Well-planned and well-thought out. Includes title, introduction, statement of main idea, transitions & concl..	Good overall organization, includes the main organizational tools.	There is a sense of organization, although some of the organizational tools are used weakly or missing	No sense of organization
Organization: Paragraphs	All paragraphs have clear ideas, are supported with examples and have smooth transitions.	Most paragraphs have clear ideas, are supported with some examples and have transitions.	Some paragraphs have clear ideas, support from examples may be missing and transitions are weak.	Para. lack clear ideas
Content	Exceptionally well-presented and argued; ideas are detailed, well-developed, supported with specific evidence & facts, as well as examples and details	Well-presented and argued; ideas are detailed, developed and supported with evidence and details, mostly specific.	Content is sound and solid; ideas are present but not particularly developed or supported; some evidence, but usually of a generalized nature.	Content is not sound
Research (if assignment includes a research component)	Sources are exceptionally well-integrated and they support claims argued in the paper very effectively. Quotations and Works Cited conform to APA.	Sources are well integrated and support the paper's claims. There may be occasional errors, but the sources and Works Cited conform to APA style sheet.	Sources support some claims made in the paper, but might not be integrated well within the paper's argument. There may be a few errors in APA style..	The paper does not use adequate research or if it does, the sources are not integrated well. They are not cited correctly according to APA style, nor listed correctly on the Works Cited page.
Style: Sentence structure	Sentences are clear and varied in pattern, from simple to complex, with excellent use of punctuation	Sentences are clear but may lack variation; a few may be awkward and there may be a few punctuation errors.	Sentences are generally clear but may have awkward structure or unclear content; there may be patterns of punctuation errors.	Sentences aren't clear
Style: Word choice, Tone	There is clear use of a personal and unique style of writing, suited to audience and purpose; the paper holds the reader's interest with ease.	There is an attempt at a personal style but style of writing may be awkward or unsuited to audience and purpose; the reader may lose interest in some sections of the paper.	There is little attempt at style; reads as flat and perhaps uninteresting in content, which is usually generalized and clichéd.	No attempt at style
Style: Details and Examples	Large amounts of specific examples and detailed descriptions.	Some use of specific examples and detailed descriptions. May have extended examples that go on for too long.	Little use of specific examples and details; mostly generalized examples and little description.	No use of examples
Grammar & Mechanics	Excellent grammar, spelling, syntax and punctuation.	A few errors in grammar, spelling, syntax and punctuation, but not many.	Shows a pattern of errors in spelling, grammar, syntax and/or punctuation. Could also be a sign of lack of proof-reading.	Continuous errors