

GOVERNMENT IN ACTION



Changing Policy, One Branch at a Time

In this challenge, you get to develop firsthand knowledge of immigration reform by taking on the role of a political advisory firm that is advising an interest group on what they can do to reach their policy goals.

To accomplish this goal, you will add to your knowledge about how the government is organized to make policy and where the entry points in that process are for citizens. You will also develop expertise about how interest groups are organized and what they do to create the policy changes.

You should think of this cycle as an advocacy/issues campaign. Your goal is to help your client win.

Immigration is an emotional issue that is tied to deeply held beliefs about what it means to be an American. In our class, we expect you to elevate the discourse above what we see in our political sphere. In all of your communication in this unit, be respectful, be responsive, and be kind.

You will be advising one of the possible clients:

The Heritage Foundation:

<https://www.heritage.org/immigration/commentary/conservative-pathway-immigration-reform>

FAIR:

<http://www.fairus.org/site/PageServer>

Minuteman Project:

<http://www.minutemanproject.com/>

Hispanic Coalition for Comprehensive Immigration:

<http://hispaniccoalitionforcir.com/>

No More Deaths:

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

Center for Immigration Studies:

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

American Immigration Lawyers Association:

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

Health Initiative of the Americas:

<http://hia.berkeley.edu/>

Task 1: Get to know your client by using online resources to understand its mission, history, and key players.

You will introduce your firm and your client at a town hall meeting.

Task 2: Give a press conference on behalf of your client. Pinpoint specific bureaucratic agencies that are involved in immigration enforcement.

Task 3: Write a memo to your client that will give advice on how they should use the courts to promote their agendas.

Task 4: Help your client write a letter to the president that will explain your client's position on the immigration issue and why the president should support your client.

Task 5: Help your client create a congressional testimony to be given to the bipartisan committee on immigration reform for the purposes of collecting information on the current immigration debate.

Task 6: Present a final comprehensive political action plan to your client.