Participation in Government Paper

Your PiG paper needs to revolve around an approved current public policy (bill, law, lawsuit, state/ local Assembly action, etc.) that is being considered or debated and controversial somewhere in the nation. **Finding a topic is the biggest challenge and takes some time.** Here are some tips for finding a public policy to center your paper around:

1. **Reading what the media has been reporting about controversial topics**
   You can search local and national news to see if a controversial issue is currently getting a lot of attention. For example, if you are interested in immigration reform or abortion laws, you might use the search terms “immigration legislation” or “abortion state bills 2019.”
   - Start your search in SIRS Researcher. Make sure you sort your search results by date.
   - Website that can help throughout the process: procon.org or ballotpedia
   - Once you find a possible topic, then you can Google it!

2. **Seeing what new bills are riling up the interest groups**
   If you have a particular issue you are interested in, you can visit an interest groups’ website to see if there are action alerts that focus around a policy they are either for or against. This could lead to a great topic. I highly advise looking at local chapters’ sites as well. To find a list of interest groups for different issues use SIRS Researcher, Encyclopedia of Associations or Google search “name of issue .org.”

**If an article or webpage provides info, track it in Noodletools. All LINKS must be cited!**

**Finding Interest Groups**
Here are some tips for locating different interest groups that may be rallying in support or in opposition to your public policy:

1. **Reading what the media has been reporting about your topic**
   Many times, articles will mention several interest groups or individuals from interest groups who have something to say about your topic. **Skim** as many articles as you can find about your topic to identify these groups. To find articles, look in SIRS, or conduct a Google-news search for your specific topic.

2. **Find a group that focuses on your general issue**
   To find a list of interest groups for different issues use Encyclopedia of Associations, , SIRS Researcher, or Google search “.org.”

3. **See if a national interest group has a state or local chapter.**
   Many of the big interest groups, such as the ACLU, have state and local chapters to deal with issues on those levels.