

## MSW 520 Pre-Library Session Assignment

Use the course guide to complete your assignment (click on Policy Resources on the left side)

<https://biblio.csusm.edu/guides/msw-520-social-welfare-policy>

### *Suggested Research Process*

1. **Choose your topic.**

- **Choose your issue based on observations at a site/organization/other classes. What issue does the organization address? What population is it helping?** Maybe you heard recently of a piece of legislation in California or the nation that addresses an area of social work that interests you.
- **Choose your piece of legislation.** Once you have identified the issue, you'll need to identify a law, bill or piece of legislation that attempts to address the issue. Do this by...

2. **Conduct preliminary research.** Once you have chosen your issue, learn a little more about it. While peer-reviewed journal articles are useful (and required), at this point, you'll want to focus on general sources from the internet, including:

- **News articles** News articles are a great way to learn more about your topic. Journalists usually write a short background about the issue in each article.
- **Professional organizations** Many professional organizations have a lobbying component and keep current on what's happening in State Legislatures and Congress.
- **Legislation overview** You can sometimes find general background information from the bill itself.
- **Wikipedia** Use Wikipedia to learn more about your topic and legislation, but **DO NOT** use it as a source in your research paper. Often, Wikipedia can help you identify which bill will fit your topic, and include the bill number, date, author, supporters and opposers.

3. **Form your initial analysis.** Now that you have your topic, and your initial analysis of your policy, you can find supporting research.

4. **Collecting evidence.** You will need many different kinds of sources for this assignment: scholarly sources to help with the policy analysis, and non-scholarly sources (such as news, government documents) as examples, description, and supporting explanation.

5. **Putting it all together.** Now you're ready to start writing.

### *Complete the table below:*

<p>Brief description of the <b>issue</b> at the center of the topic. (Circle any useful keywords to use in your searches)</p>	
---	--

<p>Why is this issue <b>important</b>?</p>	
<p><b>Who</b> does this issue impact?</p>	
<p><b>What groups</b> are involved with this issue or legislation?</p>	
<p>What <b>policy</b> (law, legislation, bill) addresses this issue? Use the bill #, year, and either the general name or the official name, e.g. Affordable Care Act, PL 111-148) *Watch the videos on the MSW 520 course guide on finding legislation.</p>	
<p>What additional keywords did you come across?</p>	
<p>Other useful information</p>	