CRJU-691: Public Policy and Criminal Justice
Case Study Paper

This paper is worth 3 points and should be uploaded to the appropriate D2L assignment dropbox no later than the start of class time on the due date. Please refer to the paper grading criteria that are posted on D2L.

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to consider the role that federalism, government structure, policy actors, and budgets can play on criminal justice policy.

Writing Skill

This assignment will require you to write a case study of a criminal justice policy issue. Recall our prior reading and discussion of the case study on Prohibition; this will take a similar format, written as a story, in plain language, and with the potential to guide discussion. One distinction will be that your paper should not end with a neat conclusion, but rather should leave the reader with one or more questions about what to do, or about what should happen next.

Word Count

This paper should be a minimum of 1,200 words but no more than 1,500 words.

The Task

Consider the theme of federalism as reflected in the readings for that topic (see the course schedule). For this paper, select a criminal justice policy issue, one that is fairly specific, and tell a story about it in such a way that it illustrates several themes of federalism. That is, after reading the case study, your reader should be able to look back at the federalism readings and say, "I see how those points were illustrated in this story!" Further guidance follows.

1. **The Case Study**. This may be a real or hypothetical case. If hypothetical, please stay within the bounds of reality. Whether real or hypothetical, any statements of true fact must be accompanied by a citation. As you write the case study, prepare it as a story. Explain the issue, problem, and context; what happened; who did what and why (if we know); the results; and so on. This should not read like an academic essay, but rather like a story you might find in a newspaper or magazine; allow your storytelling voice to shine through! Do not directly reference the concepts of federalism; allow readers to discover those themselves. Leave the case study with an unfinished conclusion,

requiring the reader to contemplate the best course of action. *Recommended length: 1,000 words*

2. **Connection to Federalism**. On a separate page, provide a bullet-point list of how various concepts from the readings are illustrated in the article. Use bullet points, first listing the concept (along with a citation to the source) and then followed by a sentence of how it is illustrated. Here's an example of what that should look like. *Recommended length: 100-250 words*

    - **Policy Diffusion (Weible, Chapter 7)**. The context is that the Gotham Police Department is studying what other agencies do while trying to develop its own hot spots policing program.

3. **Questions for Consideration**. Accompany the case study with a series of discussion questions. This should be a list of questions to guide conversation about the case study. Generally speaking, these should not be questions with a clear right or wrong answer, but should be fairly open-ended. Be creative. AI can help (see below). *Recommended length: 100-250 words*

AI Permissions

You may use AI in this paper for one, very limited, purpose. After you have completed the case study in its entirety, copy it into the AI site of your choosing and ask AI to help in developing discussion questions. Review the list that it generates. You may find that some of these questions cause you to think about revising the case study, either for clarity or content. If so, please do so. You may find that others are helpful in preparing the questions for consideration that accompany the case study. Along with your paper (but separate from its wordcount), include a statement as to how you used AI and specifically how it contributed to the preparation of the assignment, within the parameters described here.