Instructions for Policy in Real Life Video 2

Due by Midnight February 28th

These assignments are an effort to get you to think about the topics we are discussing that week and relate them to things you have heard, read or experienced in your life. These can be news or current event stories, articles you have read, things that happened to your neighbors, your own experiences.

Anything you use in this video YOU MUST VERIFY and let us know where you learned of this event! As we will discuss during the semester, disinformation is rampant and we must be vigilant in the information we choose to share.

This video should be you BRIEFLY describing the event you have chosen. You are free to include other video or photos if you want to get that fancy in your video creation, but it's not required.

REQUIREMENTS IN VIDEO: When you describe the policy situation you have chosen, you should think about how Stone's discussion of symbols and numbers show up in this policy debate. Can you identify a particular symbol that is being used in the discussion? Can you recognize the use of numbers in ways that either aren't accurate or skew the debate?

Name at least 2 symbolic devices that are being used in the debate on this policy and talk about one example of the use of numbers that communicate specific stories. Are they accurate or manipulated, in your opinion?

This is a discussion of the content for this week:

Topics for Week 7: February 22nd through February 28th

During this week we are reading Stone's chapters 7 and 8, Symbols and Numbers. I will also have videos discussing these chapters.

In both chapters, Stone discusses the impact symbolic devices have in public welfare policy. In symbols, she provides numerous examples of symbolic devices that have driven the definition of social problems and, thereby, the policy solutions. I suspect you will recognize several of these symbolic devices in our present-day policy discussions.

In Numbers, Stone shows us that numbers can either be facts, norms or symbols themselves. We all yearn for facts, data and information as we work on public policy. But, as we know too well, there are many hidden stories in numbers. How we count and who we count makes the difference in what we do.

You will also read Schulman's Chapter 1: Mechanisms of Power: Puerto Ricans in ACT UP. You can see how these advocates utilize Stone's examples of symbols and how they utilize stories of decline and rising.

All these issues are what we will be discussing this week. When you select your example of policy in real life, think about examples of any of these concepts that you are reading about.