

SELECTION CRITERIA FOR PERICLEAN D4D LETTERS

PITZER COLLEGE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CENTER

BASIC CRITERIA:

- Submission of a completed 2 page letter to an elected official by the due date, 1200 words maximum completed in partnership with another eligible student.
- Each student must be full-time enrolled at Pitzer and CANNOT be a senior (they are supposed to return to their home college the following school year).
- In the letter, students must identify one national or state public policy problem to be addressed and analyze how this problem impacts them personally, people in their community, people in their state, and, if a federal issue, people across the United States.
- In the letter, students must recommend at least one legislative solution.
 - The students may recommend an original legislative solution (i.e., fund a NASA mission to Jupiter) or they can support or oppose a portion of a bill that is currently pending before Congress or their state legislature.
 - In both cases, the students must support their solution with data and examples from at least two outside sources (books, journals, reliable internet sources) and discuss why their solution is better than other options.
- In all cases, the goal of the project should be to advance the issue. Campus events should have a tie-in to an “ask” in which students request that their fellow students or community members take an action, such as contacting their elected officials, that will advance the issue.
- All outside research must be properly cited.
- Each two student team must also submit a 2 page maximum project proposal outlining what they would do with the \$500 to advance their cause if they were selected as a winner.

As a way to quantify and standardize judgment of adherence to the basic criteria listed above, the following rubric will be used to evaluate each letter, using a scale of 1 (low) to 5 (high). Maximum possible score is 60.

Criteria	Submissions						
	Team #1	Team #2	Team #3	Team #4	Team #5	Team #6	Team #7
<i>Policy Analysis & Research – 55% of evaluation</i>							
Does the letter present one public policy issue in a convincing manner?							
Does the letter focus on a federal or state public policy issue that impacts the author(s) and their community?							
Does the letter explain how this issue impacts the author(s)?							

Does the letter contain logical judgment and analysis?							
Does the letter demonstrate the use of primary (personal experience, community experts) and secondary resources (journal articles, books) to bolster their argument?							
Does the letter demonstrate an understanding of the historical context of the problem and solution being discussed?							
Clarity of Presentation – 30% of evaluation							
Is the letter effective in communicating the significance of the problem and the solution?							
Do the authors offer a compelling narrative? As constituent?							
Is there a tie-in to either the authors or other constituents from the elected official's state/ district?							
Are the letter and proposal clear and grammatically correct?							
Project Proposal – 15% of evaluation							
Is the project proposal creative and effective in addressing the problem presented in the letter?							
Is it feasible given time and financial constraints (\$500)?							
Total Score							

Additional Notes: