

GEOG/ENST 4411: Water Resources Management
Policy Brief Analysis

Name: _____

| Criteria | Points |
|---|--------|
| <p>Elements of Policy Brief: Focused, professional, evidence-based, limited, succinct, understandable, accessible, promotional, practical and feasible. Policy briefs directly reflect the different roles that the policy analyst commonly plays, i.e. from researcher to advocate. The type of brief that we are focusing on is one from the more action-oriented, advocacy end of the continuum.</p> | /2 |
| <p>Executive Summary: The executive summary aims to convince the reader further that the brief is worth in depth investigation. It is especially important for an audience that is short of time to clearly see the relevance and importance of the brief in reading the summary. As such, a 1 to 2 paragraph executive summary commonly includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> _ A description of the problem addressed; _ A statement on why the current approach/policy option needs to be changed; _ Your recommendations for action. | /2 |
| <p>Context and importance of the problem: The purpose of this element of the brief is to convince the target audience that a current and urgent problem exists which requires them to take action. The context and importance of the problem is both the introductory and first building block of the brief. As such, it usually includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> _ A clear statement of the problem or issue in focus. _ A short overview of the root causes of the problem _ A clear statement of the policy implications of the problem which clearly establishes the current importance and policy relevance of the issue. | /2 |
| <p>Critique of policy options: The aim of this element is to detail shortcomings of the current approach or options being implemented and therefore, illustrate both the need for change and focus of where change needs to occur. In doing so, the critique of policy options usually includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> _ A short overview of the policy option(s) in focus _ An argument illustrating why and how the current or proposed approach is failing. <p>It is important for the sake of credibility to recognize all opinions in the debate of the issue.</p> | /2 |
| <p>Policy recommendations: The aim of the policy recommendations element is to provide a detailed and convincing proposal of how the failings of the current policy approach need to be changed. As such this is achieved by including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> _ A breakdown of the specific practical steps or measures that need to be implemented _ Sometimes also includes a closing paragraph re-emphasizing the importance of action. | /1 |
| <p>Appendices/Sources: Journal Articles</p> | /1 |
| <p>Total Points:</p> | /10 |