RESEARCH PAPER [TOTAL 40 POINTS]

1. **Identification of a societal problem**: (e.g., poverty, crime, traffic, inequality, declining education quality, etc.). Make sure you frame the issue as a "social problem". If the paper says, “this paper is about the three-strikes initiative then don’t give them credit for this section.

   **2 points if framed as a problem**

2. **Definition of the Problem**: How does society see this problem (how do they define the problem, the scope of the problem)? Discuss how citizens, the media, and government define the problem. A strong paper will have evidence, newspaper or internet citations, examples, etc.

   **6 points if paper has well-defined problem with examples/sources**
   **Subtract 1 points if no citations or sources**
   **Subtract 1 point if unclear/vague**

3. **Literature Review**: No popular sources or internet sources

   **10 points if the literature review has at least 6 academic sources AND is well-written and organized. (If they have more than 6 academic sources give them 11 points).**
   **If they have 5 sources give them 8 points; 4 sources give them 6 points; 3 sources give them 4 points; 2 sources give them 2 points; 1 source give them 0 points**

4. **Policy History**: Discuss what the government has done to solve this problem? Be specific - what legislation, bills, ordinances, how much money spent, etc.

   **6 points if paper discusses at least two policies in detail (give them 7 points if they discuss more)**
   **3 If they only discuss one policy**
   **0 points if they don’t have a policy history**

5. **Qualitative Research**: Identify the policy experts and political actors that are addressing this issue – what are their names, positions/occupations, what agencies to they belong to. Contact and briefly interview two individuals and summarize what s/he said. If in doubt who is a policy expert/player, contact the professor.

   **9 points if they have two interviews and describe/summarize them in an articulate manner**
   **4 points If only one interview**
   **Subtract 1 or 2 point if the material is unclear**
   **Subtract 1 point if experts are not really experts but are street-level bureaucrat (e.g. policeman/teacher) – the expert could be an administrator (i.e. principal) or a director or staff person of an interest group**

6. **Conclusion**: What caused this problem?; What should be done about it (what policies)? How would one begin to accomplish this (policy implementation)? This can be your own opinion but back it up with evidence from section 4 (literature review) and what the policy experts you identified said.

   **2 points; subtract 1 point if unclear**

7. **Grammar, Organization, Spelling, Style**

   **5 points**
   **Subtract 1 point if there are frequent misspellings**
   **Subtract 1 point if there are many grammatical errors**
   **Subtract 1 point if unorganized or unclear**
   **Subtract 1 point if no plagiarism statement**
   **Subtract 1 point if not using APSA citation style**
   **Subtract 1 or more points if too short (less than 2500 words – 10 pages – 1” margins – 12 pt font)**