UNIT 1 PROJECT – NATURAL SCIENCES: POLICY REPORT ON A HEALTH ISSUE

This unit is designed to introduce you to the conventions of scientific writing and effective communication within a professional setting. Imagine that you are an intern at a local health organization. You have been researching a health policy issue that impacts people on campus or in the community and have been tasked with writing a policy report on behalf of your organization to recommend the best course of action based on existing research. Some potential issues include, but are not limited to the following:

- Access to primary care
- Opioid crisis
- Zika
- Reproductive health

- Water contamination
- Vaccines
- Mental healthcare
- Food deserts

Genre	Purpose	Audience	Role	Rhetorical Situation
Policy Report	To report on the latest research findings on a health issue and to recommend steps to address the problem.	Decision-makers on campus or in our community. Members of the community may form a secondary audience.	Intern at a local health organization.	As an intern, you have been researching a health issue. You are tasked with writing a policy report on behalf of your organization to recommend the best course of action based on existing research.

Feeder 1.1: Email Proposal

You have been researching a health issue and want to convince your supervisor that the organization should take it up as a cause. From the list above (or from our brainstorming session), select a general health/healthcare issue and then refine it to a particular policy issue that affects UNC or the local community. Write a brief 1-2 page (single spaced with double-spaced paragraph breaks) email that analyses the issue you have chosen to study. Your email should accomplish the following:

- **Define the problem:** What health policy issue have you chosen?
- **Situate the problem:** How is it affecting people on our campus or in our community?
- **Establish urgency:** Why is it pressing for the organization to consider this issue now?
- **Analyze the issue:** What are researchers and policy makers already saying about it?

To complete this feeder, you will need to familiarize yourself with the issue by doing some initial research. Educate yourself about the issue by reading scientific or medical journal articles, and by researching how your issue is being taken up on campus or in our community. You can try searching local newspapers, minutes from city council meetings, or browsing local organization websites.

An effective email will use appropriate and professional formatting, contain well-developed and organized paragraphs that address the content outlined above, use credible research to support claims, and include accurate CSE citations (Name-Year format).

Feeder 1.2: Infographic

Infographics visually convey complicated information in a way that can be quickly and easily understood. To support your recommendation report, design an infographic that explains a key concept, research finding, statistic, and/or relationship that relates to your health topic. More than present information, your infographic should contain an "implied argument" designed to persuade your audience. Your argument may serve to establish the problem or identify a possible solution. This implied argument should be supported by scholarly sources and relevant graphics.

An effective infographic will accurately communicate one key idea, purposefully use graphics to support the main idea, be visually attractive and easy to understand, carefully select relevant information to support the implicit argument, and be supported by data from credible sources that are accurately cited in CSE style (Name-Year format).

Unit 1 Project: Recommendation Report

For the final unit assignment, you will write a 5-7-page policy report that culminates in your recommendation. Your policy report should include the following sections (you may add additional sections or rename sections based on our analysis of model policy reports):

- **Title Page** that is professionally formatted and contains all identifying information.
- **Executive Summary** that reviews your report in less than 1 page.
- **Introduction** that provides an overview of the health issue, including information specific to the campus or community. Draw from the work you did for Feeder 1.1.
- **Body** that provides a synthesis of your research in more detail. It should be organized in a way that provides evidence for your ultimate recommendation.
- At least one **Infographic** that helps readers understand the problem or solution. Draw on the work you did for Feeder 1.2.
- **Conclusion** that outlines your recommended policy change(s). The recommendation should refer to credible, scientific sources to back up your claims.
- **Reference list** and internal citations in CSE style (Name-Year format)

An effective policy report will also be written in a tone and style that fits the genre and reflect the design, organization, content, and style suitable for a policy report.

Deadlines

Assignment	Due Date
Feeder 1.1 Draft	Th, 8/31/17
Feeder 1.1	Tu, 9/5/17
Feeder 1.2 Draft	Th, 9/7/17
Feeder 1.2	Tu, 9/12/17
Unit 1 Partial Draft	Tu, 9/19/17
Unit 1 Full Draft	Th, 9/21/17
Unit 1 Project	Tu, 9/26/17