

Issue Development Guide

Getting Started

- Beginning Questions
 - What did you learn from your participation in legislative advocacy this year that would help you better prepare the student leaders that follow?
 - What are the greatest areas of need on your campus?
 - What do students want to see changed?
 - What issues might be relevant statewide?
 - What is realistic or viable for change as part of the legislative process?
 - What bills were introduced in 2023-24 that didn't fully pass but had considerable support? Can they serve as a model for a future bill/proposal? Who were the sponsors? How can we help them get it across the finish line?

Research

- Once you have picked an issue that is important to your team, your campus, and hopefully the state, do some research!
- How does that issue affect your campus? What data exists?
 - Data can be found in many locations including research papers, the U.S. Government, local cities or counties, campus partners, or community organizations.
- Any news articles, journal pieces, or surveys that support your claim?
- Who else is working on this issue? Campus partners? Other campuses? Legislators? Community partners? Organizations?

Narrative

- Once you have done some research, start putting a draft together of your written narrative!
- Tips for drafting:
 - Don't limit yourself or your creativity! Use all the words you want. We'll refine later, it's more important now to work through ideas
 - Drafts are meant to be messy, don't focus so much on writing skills. Once again, this will be refined before we share outside of this group
- Split up the work!
 - Who likes to write? Who likes to edit? Who likes to research? Who feels comfortable presenting?

Narrative Introduction & Body

- The introduction should introduce and frame the issue as simply and clearly as possible.
- Remember, this could be the first time someone is hearing about this issue so try to be as concise and explanatory as possible!
- The body should include the rationale and data for the topic that was introduced and explain why your topic is a problem and for whom
- Your group is responsible for determining and citing the data used in your narrative

Narrative Conclusion

- The conclusion is your ask.
 - What do you want to be done about this issue?
 - Who do you want it to be done by?
- It helps to have an actual bill, budgetary ask, or initiative to connect to your ask and topic
- Suggesting a new bill in a legislative year is one way to go, but often getting new bills passed that are disconnected to other work being done, takes a significant effort in negotiation between multiple groups of people.
- The conclusion is where you can be creative and also use negotiation to move closer to solving a problem.

Narrative Example

Housing insecurity is a problem for many people living in this area where people are not able to keep steady housing, are living in parking lots, sharing homes, or couchsurfing.

College students are faced with making choices between paying rent, eating food, and buying supplies and books for classes. Although there are both scholarships and financial aid available to students, and students can receive state assistance, often the costs associated with attending college outpace the ability to pay for rent, food, and class supplies.

Overall, 70 percent of students at two-year institutions and 61 percent of students at four-year institutions faced either housing or food insecurity in the previous year, and 39 percent of two-year students and 30 percent of four-year students were both food insecure and housing insecure." (June/July 2019, AAC& U News. Facts & figures: Majority of college students experience food insecurity, housing Insecurity, or homelessness).

Housing insecurity affects many CTC students and affects student application, retention, and completion. We call upon the legislature to pass HB 1149 to support students dealing with housing insecurity and to increase financial assistance for these students in the upcoming legislative cycle

Presentations

- Presentations will happen during Student Voice on Saturday, May 4th
- You will have 5 minutes to present your issue to the group
- Presentations should clearly indicate the
 - Introduction (what is the issue?)
 - Body (data & rationale)
 - Conclusion (what is the ASK?)
- Visual aids aren't required, but are helpful!
- Presentations can be pre-recorded by your team if you aren't able to attend on May 4th!
- Issues will be caucused and then voted upon on May 4th to create a unified agenda of 3-5 issues