2024–2025 Public Policy Analysis Challenge Scoring Rubric—Final Round

White Paper Title: _____

Team Member Names: _____

Mentor: _____

Judge ID: _____

Executive Summary: Evaluated Prior to Reading the White Paper	
Criteria	**Points**
The problem or opportunity, including the scale and scope, was described clearly and appropriately quantified.	⁄ 5
The future costs and implications of maintaining the status quo were well-explained.	⁄ 5
Causal relationships and root causes were identified and explained convincingly.	⁄ 5
The recommended policy and its expected outcomes were explained clearly.	⁄ 5
The expected costs and benefits of the recommended policy were clearly and appropriately analyzed and compared to the status quo.	⁄ 5
The practicality of the new policy was addressed, including challenges and barriers to adoption and implementation.	⁄ 5
Key assumptions, risks, and success factors were identified and explained.	⁄ 5
A plan for how the effectiveness of the new policy should be evaluated over time and who will monitor was presented.	⁄ 5
Overall, the executive summary provided an interesting, coherent, and compelling argument that was clear and complete, with no obvious major omissions, errors, gaps, or inconsistencies.	⁄ 5
Overall, the executive summary was well-written (including grammar and style), well-formatted (easy to navigate), and appropriate in length (max 2 pages double-spaced).	⁄ 5
Total Points for the Executive Summary out of 50	**⁄ 50**
White Paper: Evaluated Prior to Seeing the Presentation	
The problem or opportunity, including the scale and scope, was described clearly and appropriately quantified using reliable and authoritative sources, and with data, tables, or graphs if appropriate.	⁄ 5
The future costs and implications of maintaining the status quo were well-explained.	⁄ 5
Causal relationships and root causes were identified and explained convincingly, with no obvious causes omitted.	⁄ 10
Other plausible policy options were identified and explained well.	⁄ 10
The expected costs and benefits of all policy options were thoroughly, convincingly, and appropriately assessed, and the tradeoffs among the options were properly analyzed and explained.	⁄ 10
Supporting data was properly sourced, verified, analyzed, interpreted, cited, and presented. Supporting evidence and expert opinion was credible and relevant.	⁄ 10

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Key assumptions, risks, and success factors were identified and explained, including any sources of uncertainty and their impact on the likely range of outcomes.	⁄ 5
The analysis didn't overlook any material potential externalities, secondary effects, or unintended consequences.	⁄ 10
Challenges and barriers to adoption and implementation and ways to resolve these challenges/barriers were properly considered, including potential regulatory, legal or constitutional issues, and potential social, political or ethical issues.	⁄ 5
The analysis considered how the effectiveness of the new policy should be evaluated over time, including the identification of quantitative and qualitative key performance indicators, and who will monitor.	⁄ 5
Overall, the white paper provided an interesting, coherent, and compelling argument that was clear and complete, with no major analytical omissions, errors, gaps, or inconsistencies.	⁄ 10
Overall, the white paper was well-written (including grammar and style), well-formatted (easy to navigate), and appropriate in length (max 25 pages double-spaced including tables, graphs, and references, but excluding title page and executive summary).	⁄ 5
You were convinced the proposed policy change would achieve the desired result. That is, the white paper presented the best policy option to address the problem/opportunity and the proposed policy change had a reasonable chance of success.	⁄ 10
Total Points for the White Paper out of 100	**⁄ 100**

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Presentation	
The presentation captured well the major elements and conclusions of the policy analysis, including: • the problem or opportunity, clearly described and appropriately quantified • the future costs and implications of maintaining the status quo • causal relationships and root causes • the recommended policy and its expected outcomes • the expected costs and benefits of the recommended policy, compared to the status quo and/or other alternatives • key assumptions, risks, and success factors, including any sources of uncertainty and their impact on the likely range of outcomes • potential externalities, secondary effects, and unintended consequences • challenges to adoption and implementation and how they could be resolved (for example, potential regulatory, legal or constitutional issues, and potential social, political or ethical issues) • a plan to evaluate effectiveness, including identification of key performance indicators, and who will monitor • data/evidence referenced was from reliable, authoritative sources	⁄ 60
The presentation was coherent and well-rehearsed, with smooth transitions between speakers and good pacing that facilitated comprehension and allowed adequate time for questions. All acronyms were defined.	⁄ 15
All team members participated in the presentation, with each speaking clearly and confidently and interacting well with one another and with the audience.	⁄ 15
The presentation made effective use of visual aids (e.g., graphs, tables, diagrams, bullet points). The slides did not contain an overabundance of text.	⁄ 15
The team members avoided an overreliance on notes or slides when speaking.	⁄ 15
The team demonstrated strong command of its chosen subject and of its analysis.	⁄ 15
The team responded directly and effectively to questions posed by judges.	⁄ 15
Total Points for the Presentation out of 150	**⁄ 150**

Final Judging Tally:

Executive Summary _____ White Paper _____ Presentation _____ Total _____

Comments for Team Members: