

What are Public Affairs and why are they our mission?

Missouri State University was granted a statewide mission in public affairs in 1995 when Senate Bill 340 was signed into law. The public affairs mission defines a primary way in which an education from Missouri State is different from that of other universities and one way by which we educate our students to imagine the future.

It's exciting because it helps us attract students who have that extra something that creates future game changers and community leaders, and we like that aspect. It's good for you because you're getting instruction in class to help build the pillars below.

There are three pillars of Public Affairs

Ethical Leadership: Missouri State aims to prepare students for the future by helping you understand the ethical dimensions of leadership. We'd like you to be able to articulate your value system in an educated way, act ethically within the context of a democratic society, and demonstrate engaged and principled leadership. Ultimately, we hope you'll take what you've learned in our classrooms and apply it in the real world to bring about positive change.

Cultural Competence: This one is fairly obvious, but sometimes overlooked. We'd love for you to recognize AND respect multiple perspectives and cultures. Missouri State facilitates this one with programs like study away, language and culture courses, history and religion courses, and by having a growing number of international students on campus with whom you may (and I encourage this!) interact with to expand your worldview.

Community Engagement: Missouri State wants you to be involved in a way that builds you as a person. We hope to help you recognize your own importance so you'll contribute your knowledge and experiences to your community and society as a whole. By being engaged as students, you'll not only gain a broader sense of the world around you, but also become more marketable in your job search. Employers usually like seeing potential employees who care about a larger whole, so everyone wins here!

Your assignment

First, meet for coffee somewhere with your group. Clearly, this begins with scheduling a time that works for everyone. Many professional arenas rely on casual interactions like this to get things done, so it's best to start building your confidence in these social interactions now. There's a Starbucks in the PSU and several locally-owned coffee joints downtown within shuttle/walking distance of campus. There may be bonus points for groups who can show me a photo of their meeting at a locally-owned place – it's important to get to know our local community.

Make sure someone brings a device that can access the internet so you can find the information for your assignment online. ALL answers to the questions on the reverse of this page may be found on the Public Affairs page on the Missouri State site.

Your group's response to the questions on the reverse are **due Tuesday, September 3 in class**. I would prefer no more than one page, typed, single or 1.5 space Calibri 10 point, like this assignment sheet. Turn in only one per group, please. You will be asked to provide a brief verbal description to your classmates at the beginning of class.

We're going to have a quiz over the three pillars on Thursday, August 28, so mentally prepare yourselves and be aware of the information above.

Group 1 *Public Affairs Week*

- What is it?
- When does it occur?
- List 3 activities that your group would be interested in attending during the week.
- When and where did you meet to complete this assignment?

Group 2 *Public Affairs Convocation*

- What is it?
- When does it occur?
- Who is speaking this year and why did MSU choose this speaker?
- When and where did you meet to complete this assignment?

Group 3 *Public Affairs Conference*

- What is it?
- When does it occur?
- List 3 activities that your group wishes they could have attended at the 2014 conference.
- When and where did you meet to complete this assignment?

Group 4 *Avenue of Flags*

- What is it?
- When and where does it occur?
- Who should you contact with questions about the Avenue of Flags?
- When and where did you meet to complete this assignment?

Group 5 *Public Affairs Community Engagement Project*

- What is it?
- When does it occur?
- How many pairs of shoes did the project collect in 2013?
- When and where did you meet to complete this assignment?

Group 6 *Public Affairs Hall of Fame*

- What is it?
- When was the first event held?
- List 3 inductees from the inaugural Hall of Fame class.
- When and where did you meet to complete this assignment?