

## HRA 499 Public Affairs Assignment

As many of you know, Missouri State University has a statewide mission in public affairs. This mission defines a primary way in which a Missouri State University education is different from that of other universities and one way by which we educate our students to imagine the future. HRA 499, is one of the designated courses in the HRA Department where students are asked to reflect and write about public affairs. As defined by the university, the public affairs mission consists of three pillars: Ethical Leadership, Community Engagement and Cultural Competence. The purpose of this assignment is to engage you in thinking about and recording your thoughts regarding each of these pillars. Each pillar is defined below and the definition is followed with a series of questions. Please respond to the questions thoroughly and completely and make sure that you provide discussion and examples. The *minimum* page requirement for this assignment is **five double spaced pages**. **Do not record your answers on this assignment sheet.**

**Ethical Leadership** is striving for excellence and integrity as one continually develops ethical and moral reasoning while contributing to the common good. Ethical leaders have the courage to live by their principles in all parts of their personal and professional lives.

1. Describe any examples of ethical leadership that you have encountered during this internship. Why would they be examples of ethical leadership? If you have not encountered any examples of ethical leadership, discuss the leadership environment in your internship site.
2. Have you encountered any ethical dilemmas on the job or elsewhere in which you were personally involved? How did you handle these?
3. What does ethical leadership mean to you and how do you plan to employ it as you progress through your career.

**Cultural Competence** begins with cultural self-awareness and expands to knowledge of, respect for, and skills to engage with those of other cultures. Culturally competent individuals respect multiple perspectives and are able to successfully negotiate cross-cultural differences.

1. In your work place or elsewhere you have probably come across, worked with and interacted with people who are different from you or different from your socio cultural background. People can differ on the basis of a number of factors including race, ethnicity, cultural background, ability or disability, sexual orientation, socio-economic background, political views, and so forth. Describe any encounters that you have had with people or groups of people who differ from you and discuss your feelings and the actions that you took, if any, to gain understanding and effectively work with people from different cultural backgrounds.
2. Discuss your feelings about cultural competence. Is it a necessary skill? Why/not? How do people go about developing it?

**Community Engagement** is recognizing needs in the communities within which one belongs, then contributing knowledge and working with the community to meet those needs. Community engagement requires extending beyond one's self for the betterment of the community - a process that fosters greater awareness and personal growth.

1. Describe any community engagement activities that your organization is involved with. Why do you think the organization is engaged? How effective are these efforts? If the organization is not engaged, why do you think it is not?
2. Do you think that civic engagement is important to responsible citizenship? Why/not? What role do you see civic engagement playing in your life and career?