

Paper Assignment ECOE 40565

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In 1994, the Clinton health care reform program died a slow painful death and there has been little effort on this issue at the national level since. However, for a variety of reasons, health care reform is now back front and center as a legislative issue. Massachusetts has adopted a major health care reform initiative and the Governor of California has proposed one as well. Likewise, all major presidential candidates have outlined detailed health care reform programs.

A family friend has arranged for you to intern for a network news program. You think the assignment will 'look good' on your resume so you take the internship. You quickly learn that sitting through class is infinitely more interesting than making copies but I digress.

A reporter for the program has been asked to moderate a 'town hall' forum on health care reform at a distinguished private university. The reporter has not followed the health care issue closely and needs to get up to speed quickly. Your assignment is to write a 7 to 10 page, double spaced, 12 point font memo outlining the key aspects and likely consequences of a particular health care reform program. I randomly assigned students to a particular reform proposal and the assignments for each student are on the next page.

Your paper should address the following issues. First, outline the *key* characteristics of the reform proposal. You cannot discuss all aspects of the reform so make some decisions about what is important. Second, discuss the likely consequences of the reform in four key areas: Will the proposal increase insurance coverage? Will it control health care costs? Does the proposal effectively deal with the fiscal concerns associated with the Medicare program? Does the proposal reduce tax inequality associated with employer provided health insurance? For those looking at the Massachusetts program, you will discuss what *has* happened and not what *will* happen.

You may have to read some academic literature to answer these questions. For example, some of the proposals rely heavily on preventive medicine as a way to control costs so you will have to read up on whether this will save money.

A great service is Public Med (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez>) which is an index of all articles written in medical journals. A great source of easily accessible articles in this literature is the journal *Health Affairs* which is available electronically via the library. Finally, a great source of data is the Kaiser Family Foundation (www.kff.org). A number of health policy scholars have written reviews of these proposals so you may want to search for them as well.

Please document all sources. You can discuss the proposals with others in the class but you must write the text yourself. Please document all sources. Write in complete sentences.

The paper is due in hard copy at the start of class, Tuesday, December 11, 2007.

Any finally, no, you cannot trade your assignment with another student in class.

Student	Assignment
Sue Kipples	Clinton
Mary DeBartolo	Clinton
Ann Walter	Clinton
Brett Berceau	Clinton
Zach Einterz	Giuliani
Michael Gioia	Giuliani
Christopher Rohrs	Giuliani
Karis Kornfield	Giuliani
Ben Clarke	Massachusetts
Joe Lawlor	Massachusetts
Eileen Offer	Massachusetts
Brad Duffy	Massachusetts
Abbie Dunleavy	California
Bernadette Goudreau	California
Karen Stockley	California
Connor Martin	California
Brandon Payne	Edwards
Bryan Stanistreet	Edwards
Alicia Alexander	Edwards
Allyson Laurance	Obama
Adam Brown	Obama
Michael Baker	Obama
Nick DePrey	Obama