Health Policy 201
Fall 2010
Assignment #5
You will draft a chapter to a candidate briefing book for CT candidates for Governor

Candidates routinely have staff prepare briefing books on a variety of topics including health care. Choose a topic – you may use one of those listed below or include your own – and write a briefing paper for the current CT candidates for Governor. You should not include any information on opponent's positions, only the policy facts, current trends, policy options being considered, etc. Be objective. Partisan politics is not appropriate. Give all policy options, even those you do not agree with.

You are writing as a staffer to the candidate. You need to give him the relevant information he needs to decide his position on the issue, with a few statistics to support the points. Graphs and charts help a busy candidate see your point better than a table of numbers.
Remember that candidates will be reading a lot of these papers from staff on many topics. Do not overwhelm or repeat yourself.

In some cases, nonprofit or lobbying organizations create briefing papers for books on their issue area – these tend to have an agenda and often are not balanced. You are **NOT** writing that type of paper.

I have included a copy of a briefing paper from the CT Health Policy Project for our 2010 candidate briefing book as an example. Look for others on the web.

Typical topics for a health care briefing book could include:
Health care coverage – who is covered and how
- CT's uninsured
- Health care costs – where it comes from and where it goes
- Health information technology – the promise, costs and challenges to implementation
- Obesity
- Tobacco
- Health care workforce
- Health disparities
- Patient-centered medical homes
- Accountable Care Organizations
- Retail medical clinics
- Medicaid/HUSKY/Charter Oak
- Prevention
- Medical errors, patient safety
- Wellness programs
- Payment reform
- Senior health care – challenges, trends
- Children's health care – challenges, trends

Remember to include the **audience** and **where you looked for guidance** for both content and form in writing the paper.