

## **Assignment – Testimony**

**PCH – 358 Section 3W**

**Spring 2018**

**Draft testimony to a legislative committee on a smoking bill**

**Draft due 2/13/18, final draft due 3/6/18**

**Four pages, double-spaced**

A bill was proposed in 2015 in the CT General Assembly to prohibit smoking in private clubs. A copy of the bill can be found at <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/TOB/s/pdf/2015SB-00189-R00-SB.pdf> and on Blackboard under assignments.

Your audience is the Connecticut General Assembly's Public Health Committee. The committee is Co-Chaired by Senator Terry Gerratana and Representative Jonathan Steinberg. You must decide what group you will be representing in your testimony. Potential options include:

- Local public health department
- Tobacco company
- Teacher
- Smoke shop owner
- Parent

Examples of testimony can be found at

[https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/CommDocTmyBillAllComm.asp?bill=SB-00258&doc\\_year=2015](https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/CommDocTmyBillAllComm.asp?bill=SB-00258&doc_year=2015)

Make clear in your testimony who you are representing and whether you oppose or support the bill. Include relevant background information that supports your position. Remember you are trying to persuade them. Use professional language. Make arguments that will appeal to and are appropriate to your audience – Connecticut legislators who chose to serve on the public health committee. Remember that they are facing a budget crisis and facing reelection later this year. Your testimony will be more effective if you anticipate your opponents' arguments and rebut them. Graphs and other visuals can be helpful, but don't go overboard.

Rubric: 10pt.s each -- draft and final

Format, grammar, professional language – 25%

Background information – 25%

Clear arguments, appropriate to audience – 25%

Anticipate opponents' arguments – 25%