Leadership Paper Instructions  
PUAD 641  
Fall 2011

Overview: For this assignment, you will consider: 1) a public service leadership challenge, 2) the appropriate academic lenses that apply to the selected leadership challenge, 3) your own leadership strengths and how you might contribute to addressing the leadership challenge.

Approach: This assignment will be completed in three stages (detailed below). Each stage will include: 1) a reflective journal entry prompt, and 2) a corresponding section of a completed paper.

Products: As a result, your completed assignment will include two separate components: 1) a completed paper that should not exceed 6 double-spaced pages, and 2) three separate reflective journal entries. Reflective journal entries should follow the three-paragraph format presented in class: 1) description, 2) interpretation, and 3) outcome.

Other: Each stage is worth 30% of the overall grade. All components of this assignment are due on the date noted in the syllabus. Reflective journal entries should be entered in your Blackboard journal. The completed paper should be turned in via the provided Blackboard assignment link.

Stage 1: Call to Action (30%)
1. **Reflective journal entry #1:** Respond to the following prompt using your Blackboard journal:
   a. Use class resources, your own experiences, your career goals, news stories, etc., to brainstorm 1-3 public service leadership challenges. Why do you consider these to be notable?

2. **For the paper:** Select one public service leadership challenge that is of interest to you. Write an introduction section that provides an overview the challenge and gives evidence to support your selection as a public service leadership challenge.

Stage 2: Concept Application (30%)
1. **Reflective journal entry #2:** Respond to the following prompt using your Blackboard journal (this should be a separate entry from Stage 1):
   a. Which 1-3 leadership concepts/themes from the semester have resonated most with you and why?

2. **For the paper:** Using the resources from the semester, identify the two key leadership themes/concepts that apply to your selected leadership challenge. Analyze the leadership challenge using these themes/concepts.
Stage 3: Plan of Action (30%)

1. **Reflective journal entry #3:** Respond to the following prompt using your Blackboard journal (this should be a separate entry from Stage 1 and 2):
   a. Identify your top 1-3 leadership strengths (based on assessments, exercises, reflection). How have you utilized these strengths in the past?

2. **For the paper:** Based on your leadership strengths, how might you contribute to addressing your selected leadership challenge? Conclude your paper by identifying three specific next steps you could realistically take to help meet the leadership challenge.

Evaluation will be based on the following components:

- **Purpose:** does the student clearly and completely address the components of the assignment?
- **Concept Development:** are key concepts appropriately identified, utilized, and applied?
- **Sources and Evidence:** are sources of evidence related to the assignment components and integrated appropriately?
- **Concept Evaluation:** does the work illustrate critical thinking?
- **Language, Format, and Style:** is the finished product written in a professional manner that follows the prescribed format and provides a bibliography?