Students are required to write a 10-12 page research paper on an urban issue of their choice that we have touched upon in the course. Topics can include one of the presentation topics or some variation on one of the topics. Each of the presentation topics are amenable to a 10-12 page research paper, so students may wish to develop their presentation topic into a research paper. Or, they may elect another topic. Either way, students should inform the instructor of their topic choice no later than the date of the mid-term.

This is a research paper. This means you must investigate the academic literature on the topic. You may also consult trade publications that may be appropriate to the topic, but they should not serve as the only source of your information. Your paper should speak to the following types of questions: What is known about the topic/policy tool you are examining? How effective has this policy tool been proven to be? Does it work better for some circumstances more than others? Certain places, or for certain services, etc?

Sources of information must be properly referenced, using standard citation formats (consult the APA style manual or the Chicago Manual of Style). The paper must be typed, double-spaced in 12 point font and conform to standard conventions of English language. Papers should read as professional work products, as though you were writing for a government agency or policy think tank.