INAF 6209 TechTactics | Wichowski

Fall 2020

Assignment #4

**“What Next” Policy Memo**

Twenty years ago, governments relied on phone, person-to-person and fax communications. Social media didn’t exist (Facebook – 2006; YouTube 2006; Twitter – 2007). Phones were connected to wires, connected to walls. Cameras required film that took, at least, hours to develop.

While it’s impossible to predict what government and technology and diplomacy will look like 10 years in the future, we can read indicators and patterns to envision what might be on the horizon.

**In this paper, identify a key emerging challenge that will manifest in the government and digital transformation arena over the next few years. Present a policy memo that presents options for managing this threat.**

Rules are simple:

* Choose a topic related to this course you find fascinating / terrifying
* Imagine where it’s going in the next few years
* Be ambitious. Be realistic. Don’t be afraid of grand claims; use evidence to back them up.

Regardless of the topic, memos should consist of four phases:

1. Topic exploration
2. Background research on your topic – history and current affairs
3. Primary research (interviews with experts; polls / surveys; data analysis, etc)
4. Final policy memo & presentation

TIMELINE

To ensure timely progress and provide opportunities for feedback from both instructor and peers in class, I strongly suggest the following course of action for research projects. **Only the final paper will be graded**. However, ongoing discussion & feedback on your progress will increase the likelihood for a successful final memo.

Topic exploration

Sep One-paragraph on proposal that identifies:

* Broad topic
* Specific area of focus
* Why topic matters

Background research

Oct One-page prospectus that expands on proposal with details on:

* Key themes from literature or examples of topics
* Background on particular type of topic you’re exploring
* Continued analysis on significance of topic within broader field

Pilot testing

Nov One-page research update / progress on pilot / interviews. Expand materials from prospectus to:

* Further detail relevance of topic to broader literature
* Summarize rationale behind approach to pilot / interviews
* Notable observations so far. Include screen captures, stats as available
* Challenges encountered and modifications, if any, required

Final policy memo & presentation

Dec Present final memo. Final policy memo handed in at time of presentation