

Narrow Focus - Second Semester

Ryan Blackburn | *Weekly Report 1/12 - 1/28*

Looking to better understand how my past actions in the Independent Study and Mentorship program have created a sort of path for my education in the realm of public policy, I took it upon myself this past week to review past research, assessments, and reports on progress throughout the year to narrow down on what to focus on during the majority of the second semester this school year. Along with this task, I also hoped to grow in understanding the connections between various levels of local government, spurred by interest found in my Government class at school, and relating this knowledge back to what projects I can accomplish through ISM.

With a large portion of my week working to focus in on a second-semester, overarching goal I hope to achieve in an effort to better prepare for my final product, while also complementing my mission statement in furthering the civic participation levels of the local scene. When reviewing the majority of my assessments, I found that I often focused more on academia, and how public policy is applied in the governmental world. While this can be used to help integrate new voters into the political scene, I saw it would be most efficient to research more on how to involve others in the process, and how certain topics may be too controversial, and should thus be avoided.

In addition to focusing on this product-gearred, collaborative mindset, I also looked into potential mediums for expanding my campaign throughout the spring and primary elections. I have worked with Mrs. Brigadier to outline various contacts, such as the Denton County GOP, in order to help solidify the path I will take in executing my project.