

Refocusing - A Change in Perspective

Ryan Blackburn | *Weekly Report 10/9 - 10/15*

Through exposure to other's experience and resources in learning more about their desired field of study, I have worked to readjust the purpose of my time in Independent Study and Mentorship for a more focused and analytical approach to state public policy. From my work in the future, I hope to be able to understand more of the concepts and procedures that shape an elected official's beliefs towards public policy rather than a limited overview of public policy seen in the state of Texas. From this, I will be able to apply the lessons I learn in ISM (that of the influence outside sources can have on a representative's stance towards any policy issue at the state government level) to my future not only the public realm, but also as an integral aspect of my country's constituency.

More specifically, I worked this week to flesh out what exactly I hope to achieve from each of my research assessments, interviews, and original work. I aim to utilize these resources to discuss specifically how one aspect of the political community (i.e. lobbying) affects the policy implemented and through which mediums. Thusly, I plan to utilize research assessments as a gateway to an issue, which will be further explored in interpersonal conversations with professionals who have had firsthand experience with the topic at hand. Indeed, through this adjustment, I will be able to apply more of what I learn this year towards the remainder of my professional career.