

Research/Policy Paper Options

Choose from the following options (or suggest your own idea, which we can discuss):

1. Select a workplace policy or benefit that potentially supports employees to balance their work and family responsibilities/needs. Critically review the research in this area. What have you learned from the findings of these studies? What are the strengths and limitations of these studies (e.g., their methods)? Where are the gaps in information about the policy/benefit? Possible examples of workplace policies/benefits are: employer-sponsored child care, union-initiated work-family policies/programs, flexible work arrangements (e.g., flextime, telecommuting, job sharing, part-time work), and parental leave policy.
2. Examine workplace policies in another country that offer a contrast to the U.S. Critically review the research done on these issues, using a gender lens in your analysis. Compare and contrast with policies and practices in the United States. Possible countries to explore include: Sweden, Germany, France, the U.K., Cuba, Chile, Argentina (or other country you select).
3. Examine a leader who has "made a difference" in promoting gender equity in the workplace, in politics, in communities, etc. Write about the policies/legislation/actions s/he has promoted and the impact they have had. Discuss any controversies involved in their actions, and include your opinion about their leadership actions as well as leadership style, if relevant.
4. Research a piece of work-related legislation that is pending or has already passed. Describe the legislation, analyze it from a gender/race/class perspective. Describe the forces in favor and opposed to it, articulate their positions, and provide any insight regarding how their ideologies inform their stance on the legislation. Does the legislation go far enough? Does it go too far? Share your opinion about it. Finally, provide an analysis regarding the implications of this legislation.

Examples of legislation you might select include: welfare legislation (e.g., Transition Assistance for Needy Families), parental leave legislation (e.g., Family and Medical Leave Act, Baby UI), child care legislation (e.g., ABC), flexible working time, etc.

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