

2017 POLS ESSAY, PRESENTATION, & TIMELINE

Essay

Your write-ups tell a great story—the story of how your Bonner experience has shaped your learning, growth, and development. They offer glimpses of you as an active citizen in college years past, revealing what you thought, why you thought it, and where those thoughts led you. They tell the story of your civic engagement and the specific moments and experiences in the community that transformed you and made you a better version of yourself. It's time to revisit those write-ups and use them to inform and shape your Presentation of Learning (POL). Read your past write-ups, paying close attention to important moments from your civic engagement that served as catalysts of change that transformed how you make meaning of the world. In your POLs essay, respond to the following questions:

1. How has civic engagement affected you? Draw upon civic, academic, and personal experiences to describe how your understanding of *at least one* of the following concepts evolved over the years:

SLG 1 Difference, power, and privilege:

- Understanding of your own identity.
- Understanding of identities and backgrounds different from your own.
- Understanding of systemic forces that shape life experience.

SLG 2 Social issues:

- Analyze complex social issues.
- Connect and apply knowledge (facts, theories, etc.) from your academics to your civic engagement practice.
- Connect and apply knowledge from your civic engagement practice to your academics to comprehend, analyze, and challenge theory.

2. How has your civic engagement prepared you to be an active citizen after college? Draw upon civic, academic, and personal experiences as you consider *at least one* of the following concepts:

SLG 3 Active citizenship:

- Clarify your civic identity.
- Understanding of and capacity for active participation.

SLG 4 Lifelong learning:

- Practice self-motivated learning.
- Develop communication and professional skills.

The POLs essay is the crux of your POL, the content of your presentation. It is the most important component of your POL because it is the articulation and explanation of the impact of civic engagement on you. When writing your POL essay, you are expected to:

- Respond to the two aforementioned questions in 3-5 pages, double spaced, one-inch margins, 12-point font.
- Include one paragraph about how you intend to present the information included in the POL essay.

Presentation

As you are aware, your POL essay is the content of your presentation. How you present that content is entirely up to you. To honor varying presentation styles, you are encouraged to be as creative as you see fit, so long as you discuss the two questions you answered in your POL essay. The idea is to enhance your content in a way that is engaging and complementary.

For example, you may read your POL essay then show a 5-minute digital story of your experience. Or you may have a photo essay that visually documents your good work and covers the insights written about in your POL essay. Other examples include music, visual arts, poetry, or any other expression of yourself that complements and draws out your insights.

Fellow Bonners, students, faculty, staff, community partners, and community members in the audience will be expecting an engaging, academic, and honest portrayal. To that end, your presentation should:

- Be 10 minutes long.
- Focus on the two questions answered in your POL essay.
- Be enhanced by visuals or a performance-based piece.

Submission

In an effort to make POLs as sharp as possible, you will submit your POL essay to BSP staff for review. They will offer feedback and suggestions to improve your content and enhance your presentation.