

In-class Assignment: Political Representation as Solution to GBV

June 4, 2025 (in person): 5% of final grade

Scenario: *The City of St. John's posts a Request for Proposals (RFP). They are seeking proposals for a program to recruit more women and 2SLGBTQIA+ to run for city council and to provide mentoring support post-election. The program budget cannot exceed \$30,000 and must be completed prior to the next election candidate nomination deadline.*

The board of directors of the St. John's Status of Women Council advocates on behalf of offers services to survivors of violence and sees the call for proposals. Although GBV is generally a federal and provincial responsibility, research by the organization demonstrates that the city has seen an increase in reported and unreported GBV in recent years and that many survivors' needs are not addressed by services. The board decides to use this RFP opportunity to develop a program proposal that will centre GBV within the city's diverse communities and the need for representation at all levels of government.

The board connects with another organization that promotes women and gender diversity in politics—Equal Voice Newfoundland Labrador (EVNL). This provincial chapter of Equal Voice ("a multi-partisan non-profit organization that supports and advocates for more women and gender diverse representation at all levels of government, including Indigenous Band leadership...[and who] develop and execute strategic programming, host skills-building and relationship-building opportunities while remaining a safe space for women and gender diverse individuals to become confident in using their voice, skills, and passions to create positive change")

(<https://equalvoice.ca/chapters/>) agrees to partner on the program proposal.

You are one of four pro bono political science researchers signed on to the collaboration as grant writers. The boards of both organizations ask you to circulate a proposal (minus the executive summary, introduction to the applicant/capacity of applicant and evaluation sections) for their feedback.

Task: Produce a three- to four-page solicited program proposal to respond to the RFP, including a need/problem statement, the solution your program provides (objectives and outcomes), the program plan, and a preliminary budget.

Steps:

1. You have been assigned to a group of four students.
2. After the break, you can use any area on campus to complete this assignment. If your group has someone with a laptop on hand, you can complete this assignment here in the class or elsewhere. If your group does not have someone with a laptop on hand, please go to the Commons area in the library and gather around a computer there.
3. Review some online resources about project proposals as needed (10-15minutes), such as <https://donorbox.org/nonprofit-blog/grant-proposals>, <https://writing.wisc.edu/handbook/assignments/grants-2/>, and <https://charityvillage.com/project-design-a-brief-how-to-guide-for-nonprofits-and-charities/>.
4. Work cooperatively to develop your program design (25-30 minutes)
5. Write the need/problem statement and the objectives and outcomes sections, as well as finalize the program plan (25-30 minutes).
6. Add a preliminary budget (10-15 minutes).
7. Ensure all of your group members' names are on the assignment and assign one student to submit the group document via email at 2 pm today.

NOTE: You are being evaluated primarily on your IDEAS not on the quality of your writing. By that logic, feel free to use Generative AI (e.g. ChatGPT) to help you draft your proposal. At the end of your proposal, in a separate section, note clearly what you did and how you used the tool if you did. **Generative AI is not great at *thinking* although it is great at making a lot of nonsense sound good.** Don't submit empty, meaningless words. You do the thinking, partner up (if you want, it's not required) with the tool to save time. This assignment is only worth 5% of your final grade. It is intended to be done quickly. Do not agonize, do not aim for perfection. Work with your team.