

## Team Reflection Piece

**Names:** Betsy, Becca, Marisa, Hillary and Jeremy

**Group:** Restoring the Pledge of Allegiance

### **What did we learn about public policy during this experience?**

Through the course of this project we learned many things about ourselves and about public policy. Some of the things we learned is that it takes a lot of work to change a public policy that has strong differences in opinion and that public policy really is something that is important in the development of our community.

### **What specific skills did we learn or improve upon during this experience?**

Our team improved on many things, including writing, highlighting, critical reading, skimming, note taking and working together as a team.

### **What were the advantages in working with a team?**

One advantage of working in a team is that your weakness could be someone else's strong point. If you miss a day then your team doesn't necessarily fall behind, because you have others to help continue working. You have more than one viewpoint coming from many different people.

### **What were the disadvantages in working with a team?**

One disadvantage of working as a team is that some people may end up doing more work than others, and they may feel "swamped" with things to do and write, and some just sit back and relax for the ride. You may disagree with someone's opinion when deciding your chosen policy or action plan. You may not have good communication and end up writing two of the same papers.

**What represents our best work?** We think that our writing pieces represent our best work, because they show our passion, determination, and drive to get across our point: that the norms of our country are unacceptable and the underlying stereotypes of religions in the United States need to be changed. We also feel that we really get our opinions and viewpoints through to our audience.

**How could we improve our problem-solving skills?** Our team didn't have that many problems, but when we had a slight argument or disagreement we usually solved it by having a team discussion, and compromised to reach a reasonable decision. To improve our problem solving skills we could generate a more thorough meeting plan and have team deliberations more often.

**What specific things would we do differently if we were to develop another portfolio on another public policy issue?** If we were to develop another portfolio on another public policy issue, we would set goals to be done at the end of each week, and if they were not done, we would finish them over the weekend. We would also have more team meetings to discuss how people are feeling. But, even though we made mistakes in the process of developing this portfolio, we don't regret making any of them because we learned from those mistakes. Overall, we were happy with how we worked together as a team and how everything turned out. This was a great experience for everyone in this group.