

Investigating the Status Quo

Task: Students must research the conditions that exist in society. In order to propose governmental change, one must first be able to describe what current policies exist.

For your reference:

Status quo is a Latin term meaning the existing state of affairs. It is a commonly used in the form of the original Latin "statu quo" – literally "the state in which". To maintain the status quo is to keep the things the way they presently are.

The purpose of the Advocacy is to challenge the status quo. In order to make a legislative change, the students must first know what laws currently govern the policies that are in effect. This will require the students to do some research about their topic. When using the internet to research a controversial topic, encourage students to find primary source material that is not influenced by another individual's or group's opinion. This will encourage them to formulate their own ideas about how to solve a problem and will insure that their claims are built on sound and reliable evidence.

For your reference:

Primary source material enables the researcher to get as close as possible to what actually happened during an historical event or time period. Rather than reading editorials or political blogs, students need to be researching court documents, diaries, journals, speeches, interviews, letters, memoirs, autobiographies, records or information collected by government agencies, and materials that document the attitudes and popular thought of a historical time period.

For your topic, complete this chart. Use additional paper if necessary.

Describe the status quo. How are things handled today?	Describe how your legislation would change the status quo?
Who enforces the status quo?	How would your legislation be enforced?
What conditions occur because of current policies? (good and bad outcomes)	How would your legislation change the outcomes of current policies?