

## Hacking4Humanity

### Policy Proposal Track

Countering disinformation is not only the purview of technology experts; government officials at every level, along with leaders in the private sector, need to craft and implement innovative policies to stop the spread of disinformation. For this track, your team will submit a two-page policy proposal memo and 3-minute video arguing for your proposal. Your goal is to offer an impactful but achievable course of action to a policymaker to mitigate the effects of disinformation.

You should scope your own problem related to disinformation. Perhaps you want to prevent disinformation related to US elections or maybe you're looking to mitigate mis/disinformation related to international public health. Your recommendation might relate to new legislation, or instead you might want to push US social media platforms to do a better job preventing the spread of disinformation on any topic. It's up to you. You'll need to choose your policymaking audience accordingly—it could be executive or legislative; local, state, federal, or multilateral.

### Format and Style

- Your proposal should be no longer than 2 pages (not including citations). Please use 1-inch margins, 12-point Times New Roman font, and single-space your text.
- Heading should read:
  - To: [government institution/policymaker to whom your proposal is targeted]
  - From: [team number]
  - Subject: [title summarizing your proposal]
- Citations are not included in the page limit. Any standard citation style is acceptable.
- A policy proposal is read by a busy policymaker. That policymaker should be able to skim your document quickly and understand your proposal. This means smart use of topic sentences, selected bold font, and clear writing.

### Recommended Structure and Related Guidance

You are not required to use this structure—this is just a common approach that might be useful to you.

- Background
- Objective
- Policy Recommendation

Additional guidance (including a helpful checklist!) can be [found here](#).

### Content

- Your proposals should be legally and politically feasible—this means financially feasible too.
- Your memo should demonstrate a critical, evidence-based understanding of the issue and the solutions you are proposing. It should outline a clear policy objective and make a compelling case for how your recommendation will achieve that objective.

### Other Guidelines

- Your work must be your own. Learning from others is important, but please cite accordingly.
- Questions? Email [cyber@pitt.edu](mailto:cyber@pitt.edu).

**Your 3-minute video submission with your written proposal should be your “elevator pitch” to your policymaker. If you had 3 minutes alone with her, how would you convince her to implement your recommendation?**

- This briefing should not be a reading of your memo.