



I. What is The Dynamo?

- A dynamic group of students - together, a think tank - at the University of Florida.
- An engine for original policy research.
- A podium for insightful blogs.
- A host for important roundtable discussions.

II. Why?

- To guide the change we wish to see in the world.
- To evidence our professional capabilities.
- To discover, and evolve our perceptions.

III. Policy Analysis?

- We know our limitations: our research will be basic.
- Most of our publications will be opinion columns (less than 600 words).
- The Dynamo will follow *The Brookings Institution* as much as possible.

IV. Research Procedure

- See *Appendix*

V. Blogs

- In the modern world, blogging is a powerful tool for quick and extensive communication.
- Many thinkers have become well-known based purely upon blogging.
- And many of today's public leaders, activists, and respected capitalists host their own blogs.
- So it makes sense for us to use TheDynamo.org as a powerful blogging tool, as well.
- Each of us will have an individual blogging account.
- We can blog about whatever we think is important.
- The general public will be allowed to comment on our blog posts.
- Blogs can be typed, video-recorded, or made as a podcast – but typed is standard.
- Blogs should link to pictures, videos, quotations, and published articles to make points.
- Blogs may be edited by the President, Vice-President, or Editor-in-Chief.

VI. Roundtable Discussions

- A roundtable discussion is a conversation about an important topic among diverse speakers.
- We will host, and video record, major roundtable discussions two or three times per semester.
- We will invite public officials, students, prominent speakers, and professors to participate.
- Discussions will be themed; *e.g.* genocide, climate change, education, health-care reform
- Discussions will be filmed, edited, and uploaded to TheDynamo.org
- Discussions will be smartly marketed as a free public attraction at the Reitz Union.

- An elected officer of The Dynamo will moderate these discussions by questioning speakers, progressing an argument, presenting data, and finding points of consensus.
- Discussions should attract 3 to 4 speakers, and over 10 audience members, for one hour.
- We will invite local and student journalists.
- Discussions will be catered.
- Discussions end with a short round of audience questioning.

VII. Encouragements

- If you are *researching* for The Dynamo, you should publish at least once per semester, through any peer-reviewed medium; *e.g.* The Independent Florida Alligator
- All members should post at least two blogs per semester.
- Comment on each other's blogs regularly.
- Do well in school, have a social life, *etc.*
- If you invest two hours per week in this think tank, then expect excellent results.

VIII. Measurable Results & Critical Acclaim

- We will naturally produce measurable results to show for our leadership.
- In time, we should expect public scrutiny, critical acclaim, and talk of our activities.
- We will build a brand name with our consistency and style.

IX. The Dynamo's Network

- We are four Reitz Scholars, several Honors students, and rising student leaders.
- Each of us should feel free to reach out to another for support and advice.
- Email Lance, your President, for any reason at all: legel@ufl.edu
- Email Ali, your Vice-President, for any reason at all: alizuaite@ufl.edu
- Email David, your Editor-in-Chief, to have your publications reviewed: dave24@ufl.edu
- Email Tiffany, your Research Director, for specific help with research: tric2010@ufl.edu

X. Blog Accounts

- Four things: (1) full name, (2) desired username, (3) desired password, (4) email

XI. Conclusion

- Exciting
- Rewarding
- Next meeting: two weeks from now, probably at a different time and place – so stay tuned.
- *Try to compose a hypothesis by next meeting* so we can review them together.
- Good luck!

APPENDIX

Research Procedure

Example of Each Step

- 1. Identify a specific problem/question**
What is the effect of climate-change on national security?
- 2. Compose a hypothesis**
Climate change threatens our national security, because threatened populaces could revert to terrorism.
- 3. Check leading institutions**
brookings.edu, nytimes.com, cfr.org, wsj.com, carnegieendowment.org, reuters.com, thinkprogress.org
- 4. Consult (interview or e-mail) experts**
Assistant Director of... Professor of...
Chairwoman of... Scholar at... *etc.*
- 5. Address difficulties and opposition**
There are problems with this idea: (1) Too many... ,
(2) Opportunity cost of... , (3) Another obstacle is...
- 6. Think: does this make sense?**
But we must act now, or else...
- 7. Write a draft less than 600 words**
This essay focuses on a *hidden* consequence...
Why do I think this? Because...
So to conclude, I recommend that...
- 8. E-mail draft to Editor-in-Chief**
Dear David,
Attached to this email is my first draft...
-Lance
- 9. Get feedback and make revisions**
Dear Lance,
What exactly did you mean by “parasite of the Earth”?
-David
- 10. Submit for publication**
Alligator Opinion Editor,
Please consider for publication the attached article.
-Lance