

NYU 2020 CSAW Policy Competition Rules & Guidelines

Competition Overview

The NYU Center for Cybersecurity and Center for Global Affairs are proud to present the CSAW'20 Policy Competition. CSAW is the most comprehensive student-run cybersecurity event in the world, featuring international competitions, workshops, and industry events. Students from various educational backgrounds who are interested in the nexus of policy and emerging technological issues are invited to think critically about major cybersecurity policy issues affecting society. The Policy Competition cultivates an environment encouraging students, academics, and professionals to challenge the status quo and impact the cyber-policy industry by presenting their ideas to leaders within the field.

Qualification Round Eligibility & Rules

1. Competitors **must be students** in an undergraduate or graduate degree program in the United States or Canada as of **6 September 2020**.
 - a. Students are not required to be part of the same institution, program, or educational fields to participate. Interdisciplinary collaboration is encouraged.
2. Teams of three **(3) students** are required; however, organizers will consider waiving this requirement for smaller teams if necessary.
3. Competitors are required to **submit a professional résumé** of no more than two (2) pages and pledge to **uphold the competition's provisions on academic integrity and student conduct** at registration. Please note that résumés will be shared with CSAW'20 Policy Competition Sponsors and prospective employers.

Qualification Round Requirements

The qualification round of the competition has three (3) components: **team registration**, a **policy brief**, and a **virtual presentation**. All teams have the potential to earn a total of 100 points. The top five (5) teams with the highest overall scores will be selected to participate in the final round competition.

Part 1: Team Registration – Deadline: Extended to 24 September 2020, 11:59 PM EDT

Students must complete the Policy Registration Form ([here](#)), which requires the following:

1. a copy of all team members' résumés/CVs (PDF versions only); and
2. a pledge by the entire team to uphold the competition's provisions on academic integrity and student conduct. Please refer to the links below for more information on NYU's Academic Integrity Pledge and NYU Tandon School of Engineering's Student Code of Conduct.
 - i. [NYU Academic Integrity Pledge](#)
 - ii. [NYU Tandon Student Code of Conduct](#)

There is no fee for registration.

Once registered, teams will be provided with a “team number” to be included in all submissions for the competition.

Part 2: Policy Brief Submission – 55 points – Thursday, 1 October 2020, 11:59 PM EDT

Each team is required to submit a 4-page policy brief along under the following guidelines:

- Times New Roman
- Size 12-font
- Single Spaced
- 1-inch margins
- Chicago Style, 16th Edition citations

A policy brief is a concise summary of a particular issue and provides policy recommendations on how to best handle the problem. Its purpose is to make research findings understandable to various audiences, most frequently stakeholders and other policymakers in government. For this reason, policy briefs are generally aimed at government policymakers and those who influence or formulate policy.

The following components should be included in your policy brief in the following order:

1. Executive Summary including Header (see sample below)
2. Context or Scope of the Problem
 - a. Identifying Audience
 - i. This is an individual who can take actionable steps to your policy. Their names should be included in the header’s “To” and “CC” sections.
 - b. Brief background on the issue at hand
 - i. Teams have the freedom to decide which aspect they would like to focus on, but must address a particular aspect of a topic.
 - c. Identifying key stakeholders (American, Canadian, and other international)
3. Policy Alternatives (or options) - please limit to a maximum of 2 policy options or alternatives to the main recommendations.
4. Policy Recommendations
 - a. Timeline of proposal
 - b. Potential setbacks you anticipate with your proposal
 - c. Legal parameters
 - d. Funding information
5. Bibliography

The Executive Summary is often one paragraph, and provides an overview of the problem and proposed policy action.

Executive Summary Header Sample:

To: David Stillwell, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, US Department of State

CC: Mike Pompeo, Secretary of State; David Hale, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, US Department of State

From: Cybersecurity Team 1

Subject: Policy proposals addressing territorial issues of the South China Sea

All sources must be credible and include a combination of media publications, trade publications, cybersecurity industry threat reports, academic publications, law reviews, etc. The most successful policy briefs and memos usually have approximately 10 to 15 sources to support their claims.

Any pages exceeding the four-page limit will not be reviewed by the Committee or the final round judges. The bibliography will not be counted as part of your page count.

An online workshop will be hosted in September to discuss how briefs should be formatted and how to improve your policy recommendations. Recordings of the workshop will be available online for your reference as well.

Policy Brief grading rubric is available [here](#).

Here is a useful policy memo writing guide:

<https://wagner.nyu.edu/files/students/NYU%20Wagner%20Memo%20About%20Memos.pdf>

Part 3: Virtual Presentation – 45 points

Presentation Deck Submission Deadline: Thursday, 1 October 2020, 11:59 PM EDT;
Presentations will occur from 5 October 2019 - 12 October 2020, scheduled separately
according to each team's availability.

Each team is required to conduct a 10-minute virtual presentation followed by a 5 minute Q&A to the CSAW'20 Policy Competition Committee. This is a unique opportunity for teams to explain and present their policy to the Committee.

The presentation should not be a summary of the policy brief; rather, it should complement the team's proposal by providing an in-depth explanation of the short- and long-term vision for their proposal, as well as addressing anticipated questions that may arise from reading their proposal (e.g., legal precedents or lack thereof; current political climate and how that will affect their agenda; relationship with standing institutions and existing initiatives). The purpose of this component is to demonstrate the team's presentation skills, professionalism, and ability to

explain a complicated issue in a simplified and direct manner within a specific and limited timeframe.

Requirements:

1. All team members **must be present** during the virtual presentation.
2. A presentation deck (in PDF form) must be submitted to the CSAW'20 Policy Competition Committee by Thursday 1 October 2020, 11:59 PM EDT
3. Policy presentations must be addressed to the team's intended audience. The audience is a specific individual(s) who can take actionable steps to enact their policy (e.g., Secretary of State).

Virtual Presentation grading rubric is available [here](#).

Additional Information:

The CSAW'20 Policy Competition Committee will contact each team individually to schedule a presentation session between 5 October 2020 - 12 October 2020. Teams that fail to present will receive a total of 0 out of 40 points.

All submissions must be titled as the following and submitted via Google forms:

TeamNumber_Topic_CSAW_PolicyPresentationR1

(e.g. TeamD1_DataSecurity_CSAW_PolicyPresentatoinR1)

Naming Conventions

All submissions must be titled as the following and submitted via Google forms:

TeamNumber_Topic_CSAW_PolicyBrief (e.g. TeamD1_DataSecurity_CSAW_PolicyBrief)

Cyber Security Policy Topics

Policy papers must focus on cybersecurity aspects of ONE of the following topics:

1. Healthcare
2. Disinformation
3. National Security & Cryptocurrency

A background paper that outlines the parameters of each topic **will be made accessible online in late August**. All teams will be asked to rank their preferred topics for the competition. Priority on preferred topic selection will be given on a rolling basis.

Update 25 August: Background papers are accessible via NYU's Google Driver [here](#)

To submit your first round policy brief and presentation, please complete [this Google form](#).

Final Round Notification

Teams will be notified as to whether they have advanced to the final round by 20 October 2020, via email.

Those teams moving on to the final round will receive feedback from the Committee on how to improve their policy proposals for finals and recommendations for final presentations. This feedback should be incorporated into an updated policy brief and considered when preparing the final presentation. See “Final Round Requirements” for further details.

Final Round Overview

CSAW finalists are typically granted a travel award to attend, present, and compete at CSAW Finals in-person. In 2020, CSAW Finals will run as a virtual event organized online by the NYU Center for Cybersecurity (Brooklyn, NY). Please see the [messaging regarding COVID-19](#) for additional details on why CSAW will run virtually this year.

Final Round Dates and Location

05 - 08 November 2020

Virtual Event

We anticipate that Final Policy presentations will take place on Friday, 6 November and an award ceremony will be held on the morning of Sunday, 8 November. Agenda details will be released by the point when Finalists are announced.

Final Round Requirements

The Final Round has two required components with a submission deadline of 3 November 2020, 11:59 PM EST. No extensions will be given.

All materials will be submitted via a Google form, to be provided to finalists at a later date.

Part 1: Updated Final Policy Brief

After the first round, teams will receive feedback from the CSAW Committee regarding their policy proposal. Revised Executive Summaries and policy memos will be given to judges prior to the final round. In addition to be shared with judges, policy briefs may be shared with other CSAW sponsors or interested parties.

Part 2: Final Presentations

Teams are required to provide a presentation deck as a PowerPoint document. **Other presentation formats, such as Prezi, PDFs, etc., are not permitted.** All presentations must be submitted to the Committee via Google Form.

Presentation Rules:

Each team will have 25 minutes to present their findings. To stimulate real-world policy briefs, each team will have 5 minutes to provide their "bottom line up front" before going into the details of their proposal. After 5 minutes, judges will be allowed to ask questions to the competitors. Competitors should be prepared to engage in a dialogue with the judges rather than present off a script and answer questions following their presentation

The Committee will host a webinar as the competition date approaches to discuss the details of the final round. Date and time are TBD.

Prizes will be awarded as follows (to be distributed beginning in late November 2020):

First Place Team: \$1,000

Second Place Team: \$750

Third Place Team: \$500

Disclosure of Entry Distribution

In addition to being shared with judges, policy briefs and recorded presentations may be shared with CSAW conference attendees, sponsors, or other interested parties. Winning entries may be used as examples for future competitors.

Use of Personal Data

Personal data (ie, name, school, email) that is collected through the registration process is accessible only by the competition organizers and is used for the following purposes:

- Reminding registrants of competition timelines, rules, and updates
- Sending occasional updates regarding future CSAW events
- Determining and contacting finalist teams and team members
- Examining multi-year participation of teams and individual player
- Determining and reporting total number of teams and total estimated individual participation
- Determining and reporting demographic trends related to participation, such as what countries have the highest number of teams participating

CSAW will not rent, sell, or share personal data with anyone other than the competition organizers.

Contact the CSAW Policy Competition Committee

Please direct your inquiries to csaw-policy@nyu.edu.