Analysis over Description

* Description at some points is warranted, but paper should be analytical
* Who, what where and when are descriptive elements
* How and why are analytical elements
* Analysis of the a policy problem should drive the paper, and be well informed through a variety of sources

Leverage Tension

* Look for the source of tension in arguments/issues
* Consider power relations and discursive relationships
* Build tension into your writing by proper use of coordination between clauses (but, although, however, while…)

Be Specific

* Specificity is much better than generalization
* Specific cases/examples are quite useful in illustrating arguments
  + Avoid over-generalization based on these specifics
* Be mindful of jurisdictionally specific arguments
  + E.g. a critique of American Freedom of Information legislation or copyright may or may not be applicable in the Canadian context
* Cite relevant specific policy materials (laws, bills, treaties, jurisprudence)

Be Critical

* This doesn’t mean just criticize everything
* Apply a critical eye to arguments *and* sources of data
* Be mindful of authors’ biases (including your own)

Policy Recommendations

* Consider alternatives and ways forward
* Also consider the risks and practicality of various alternatives

Writing

* Paraphrase often and use quotes sparingly
* Use section headings (and subheadings) to structure your arguments
* Include transition sentences between sections
* ‘However’ is not a coordinating conjunction
* ‘This’ should have a referent (e.g. “This sentence is an example” [correct] as opposed to “This is an example” [incorrect])