FINAL PROJECT – POLICY BRIEF PAPER

General
In a small group or individually, identify a food-related problem in the United States and write a policy brief (1-3 pages), appropriate for sharing with policymakers, describing a solution to address it. Prepare a background piece (of approximately 3-5 pages) plus references that justifies your position. Present your ideas in class. Consider creating and publishing a video or podcast featuring your ideas for extra credit (and props).

Due Dates
Please submit both components of this assignment (the policy brief and background paper) to your instructors via email on or before Thursday 4/16, so that we can forward to contacts in Washington, D.C. in advance of our trip. You will also present your ideas in class that week. Please submit at least a draft of the policy brief portion of this assignment on or before Monday 4/13, so we can share with invited guests in before your presentations.

Evaluation
This assignment is worth 30% of your course grade. If you work on a collaborative paper, you will evaluate the contributions of others with whom you work, and a peer evaluation score will determine a portion of your project grade. We will evaluate your work based on the organization, coherence, and strength of your argument and the thoroughness and presentation of your contextual background research.

Organization, Components, & Anticipated Length
These papers should be well-researched, clear, persuasive, and to the point. We’re expecting a 1-3 page policy brief that clearly frames the problem and offers recommendations. An additional background piece of approximately 3-5 pages plus references should delve deeper into relevant historical context and include research that sets the stage to support/justify your position and proposed solution.

Support & Post-Paper
Please read Section 4.1 of this chapter, published by FAO, which provides useful guidance for writing policy briefs and a host of food-related examples. This website also includes examples, tips, and links to resources that should be useful as you research and write. You will have several opportunities after Spring Break for presenting and getting feedback on your work, including in-class work days with time allotted for research, discussion with group members, and meetings with your instructors. You will submit your papers and present your ideas in class Week 13, when your papers will also be shared with contacts in Washington, D.C. who we will visit the following week. Your work will have a “real,” beyond-this-class audience and the potential to impact change. After we return from D.C., we will debrief our trip and the semester together on 4/28, the last day of our class.