Write a research paper that examines political leadership through the lens of what we have studied in this course. The discussion of leadership in the public sector in this course has been limited to the pubic service as opposed to the political arena, but because the latter is typically foremost for citizens, we will shift our attention to that area in this assignment.

You have three possibilities for this paper:

1. **Focus on any election in the past five years**

You can look at an election at the local level (city council or school board representatives for example), at the provincial level (e.g., the election of an NDP government in Alberta), at the national level (e.g., the election of the Liberal government), or you can look at an election in another country (e.g., the election of Donald Trump to the presidency).

In your analysis, you want to address the following questions:

* 1. Was this election transformational? To answer this question, you will need to define “transformational.” Does your definition align with transformational leadership as defined in this course?
  2. What is the utility and the limitations of using the concept of transformational leadership to understand this election?
  3. What role did values play in this election?

1. **Analyze governance through a media lens**

In this course we learned that mainstream media interests are concentrated. New media, however, means that anyone can circulate news. Like leadership, control over the media has changed, with the traditional command and control being replaced by a flatter “everyone can be a broadcaster” model.

If you choose to focus on media, you might try to answer the following questions in your analysis:

* 1. What impact have new forms of media had on those who aspire to leadership positions?
  2. What impact has new media had on structures of governance?

1. **Write a research paper that integrates themes of this course**

The most important theme is the role values play in leadership.

Your topic will need to be approved by your instructor.

The following outline will guide you in completing the research paper.

* 1. Take some time to reflect on what you have learned from the course. Develop a research question that your paper will answer.
  2. Begin researching your topic. The research question is meant to help guide your efforts. Your answer to the question becomes the argument or thesis of your paper.
  3. When you are satisfied that you can answer your research question, develop an argument in favour of your answer.
  4. Your argumentative essay should persuade readers of the correctness of your thesis.

Grading: The best essays are clearly and effectively written, well-organized, persuasive, and display a high level of knowledge and originality. Ensure that your research paper meets the following criteria:

* Argument and logic: Did you present your thesis in a logical and persuasive manner?
* Research and use of evidence: Have you made extensive and effective use of available research sources? Are your sources of high academic quality? Do not rely exclusively on internet sources, the textbook, or other material provided in the course. These can be used, but only to supplement outside sources such as books and journal articles that can be found in the AU Library. Have you used an acceptable source citation and bibliographic style?
* Communication: Is the essay well organized and written as clearly and concisely as possible?