# NYU CSAW'22
# Policy Competition Rules & Guidelines

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# 1    Competition Overview

## 1.1    Description

The [NYU Center for Global Affairs](#) and the [NYU Center for Cybersecurity](#) are proud to present the CSAW'22 Policy Competition. CSAW is the most comprehensive student-run cybersecurity event in the world, featuring international competitions, workshops, and industry events. The Policy Competition encourages students, academics, and professionals to challenge the status quo and impact the cyber-policy industry by presenting their ideas to leaders within the field. 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.

## 1.2    Topics (Update)

In 2022, the Policy Competition will focus on one topic with three subtopics:

> Topic - Connected Communities
>      Subtopic A: Trajectory of Connected Community Devices
>      Subtopic B: National Security Concerns
>      Subtopic C: Geopolitical Climate

Background papers that outline the parameters of each topic and subtopic will be posted on [csaw.io/policy](#) on 25 July 2022. It is expected that teams will follow all instructions and parameters on the background papers to guide research and inform the contents of their policy briefs and presentations.

## 1.3    Competition Eligibility

- Competitors must be students enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate degree program as of 5 September 2022.

- Students may attend any accredited university from around the world.

- Students are not required to be part of the same institution, program, or educational field to participate. Interdisciplinary collaboration is encouraged.

- Teams of two (2) students are required.

- Students will be required to submit enrollment documentation to confirm their student status before being confirmed for the Semifinal round.

## 1.4    Policy Competition Webpage

The Policy Competition webpage can be accessed here: csaw.io/policy

## 1.5    Contact the Organizers

The Policy Competition Committee is organized by students at New York University, and advised by Dr. Pano Yannakogeorgos at the NYU Center for Global Affairs.

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

# 2    Competition Requirements & Important Dates

The Policy Competition occurs over 3 rounds, from the beginning of October through early November 2022. Requirements and deadlines for each round are detailed below.

## 2.1    Timeline

All times are listed in Eastern Time. Please find a timezone converter here.

| **End of May/Beginning of June** | Background papers posted |
| --- | --- |
| **25 July 2022** | Policy brief and presentation rubrics posted |
| **26 September 2022** | Team registration deadline |
| **30 September 2022, 23:59** | Policy brief submission deadline |
| **3 October 2022** | Team number distributed to registered teams |
| **7 October 2022** | Semifinal round notification with brief scores |
| **7-10 October 2022** | Semifinal round presentation scheduling completed |

| 9 October 2022, 23:59 | Semifinal round updated presentation deck and policy brief submission deadline |
|---|---|
| 11-17 October 2022 | Semifinal round presentations |
| 19 October 2022 | Final round notification |
| 10 November 2022, 23:59 | Final round updated presentation deck submission deadline |
| 11 November 2022 | Final round presentations |
| 11 November 2022 | Policy Competition award ceremony |

## 2.2    Qualification Round Competition

The Qualification round of the competition has two (2) required components:

- **Team Registration**
  - Registration Deadline: 26 September 2022, 23:59 PM EDT
  - Policy Registration form here
  - There is no registration fee
  - By 3 October 2022, teams will be provided with a "team number" to be included in all submissions for the competition. See section 7.

- **Policy Brief Submission**
  - Submission Deadline: Sunday, 9 October 2022, 23:59 PM EDT
  - Please see section 5 for policy brief guidelines.

## 2.3    Semifinal Round Competition

### 2.3.2    Semifinalist Determination & Notification
- Teams participating in the Qualification Round will be scored according to the grading rubrics established for the competition.
  - Please see section 5.5 and section 6.2.3 for the grading rubrics.
  - Scores will be provided back to teams advancing to the Semifinal round as well as to non-advancing teams.
- The top ten (10) teams with the highest overall scores will be selected to participate in the Semifinal round competition.
- Team Notification: by Wednesday, 19 October 2022

All teams will be notified as to whether they have advanced to the Semifinal round by 7 October 2022, via email. Students will be required to submit enrollment documentation to confirm their student status before being confirmed for the Semifinal round.

### 2.3.3 Semifinal Round Date & Location
- 11-17 October 2022
- Virtual presentations on Zoom

The Semifinal round will take place on 11-17 October 2022. These will be private presentations with judges.

### 2.3.4 Semifinal Round Requirements

The Semifinal round of the competition has three (3) required components:

- **Updated Policy Brief**
  - Submission Deadline: Sunday, 9 October 2022, 23:59 PM EST
  - The Updated Policy Brief should follow the same guidelines as the Qualification Round brief (see section 5).

- **Presentation Deck**
  - Submission Deadline: Sunday, 9 October 2022, 23:59 PM EST
  - See section 6.2.1 for formatting guidelines

- **Semifinal live virtual presentation**
  - 11-17 October 2022, to be scheduled in advance by 10 October 2022
  - See section 6.2  for Semifinal round presentation rules and format

## 2.4    Final Round Competition

### 2.4.1 Finalist Determination & Notification
- Teams participating in the Semifinal Round will be scored according to the grading rubrics established for the competition.
  - See section 6.2.3 for more information about the grading rubrics.
- The three (3) Semifinalist teams with the highest scores will be selected to move on to Finals.
- All teams will be notified of their status and whether they will advance to Finals on Wednesday, 19 October 2022 by 20:00 EST.

### 2.4.2 Final Round Requirements

The Final round of the competition has two (2) required components:

- **Final live presentation**
    - Friday, 11 November 2022
    - See [section 6.3](#) for Final presentation rules and format

- **Updated presentation deck**
    - Submission Deadline: 10 November 2022, 23:59 EST
    - See [section 6.3.1](#) for formatting guidelines
    - Content updates are optional. Teams can use the same deck used during the Semi-final round, or submit an updated version.

# 3 Prizes

Prizes will be awarded as follows, and distributed beginning in late November 2022:

First Place Team: US$ 1,000
Second Place Team: US$ 750
Third Place Team: US$ 500

# 4 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.

# 5 Policy Brief Guidelines

These guidelines are applicable to both the Qualification Round and Semifinal Round Policy Brief.

## 5.1 Policy Brief Overview

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.

## 5.2 Topics

Policy briefs must focus on cybersecurity aspects of one (1) of the following subtopics:

Topic - Connected Communities
    Subtopic A: Trajectory of Connected Community Devices
    Subtopic B: National Security Concerns
    Subtopic C: Geopolitical Climate

Background papers that outline the parameters of each topic and subtopic will be posted on csaw.io/policy late May/early June It is expected that teams will follow all instructions and parameters on the background papers to guide research and inform the contents of their policy briefs and presentations.

**Clarification regarding the context of policy briefs:**
The recommendations contained within policy briefs should specifically impact the country of your choosing. Therefore, briefs should be addressed to nation-affiliated senior decision makers, and consider legality and feasibility from a specific country's perspective.

## 5.3   Formatting Guidelines

- 2 pages maximum
- Arial
- Size 12-font
- Single Spaced
- 1-inch margins
- Chicago Style, 16th Edition citations
- Submitted as a PDF

## 5.4   Policy Brief Organization

Please follow this guidance when organizing your policy brief.

### 5.4.1   Executive Summary including header
The Executive Summary is typically one paragraph, and provides an overview of the problem and proposed policy action.

Executive Summary Header Sample:

**To:** Amb. Atul Keshap, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, US Department of State
**CC:** Antony Blinken, Secretary of State; David Hale, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, US Department of State
**From:** Cybersecurity Team 1 [your Team Number]
**Subject:** Policy proposals addressing territorial issues of the South China Sea

### 5.4.2   Scope of the problem
- Identifying audience

- ○ These are senior-level decision makers who can take actionable steps to your policy. Their names should be included in the header's "To" and "CC" sections.
- Background on the issue at hand
    - ○ Teams have the freedom to decide which aspect they would like to focus on, but must address a particular aspect of a sub-topic that is included in the background paper.
    - ○ Policy briefs should clearly define the problem
- Identifying key stakeholders across national, international, private, and academic sectors

### 5.4.3 Policy Recommendations
- Recommendations / solutions
- Timeline of proposal
- Impact
- Feasibility
    - ○ Legal & Political
- Potential setbacks you anticipate with your proposal
- Funding information
- Alternative viewpoints
- Conclusions

### 5.4.4 Bibliography
- Chicago Style, 16$^{th}$ Edition citations
- The bibliography will not be counted as part of your page count (2 pages maximum)
- All sources must be credible and include a combination of media publications, trade publications, cybersecurity industry threat reports, academic publications, law reviews, etc.
- Policy briefs usually have 7 to 10 sources to support their claims.

## 5.5   Policy Brief Rubric

The policy brief grading rubrics are linked here (updated 22 July 2021):

[Qualification Round Brief Rubric](#)

[Semifinal Round Brief Rubric](#)

## 5.6   Policy Brief Submissions

Policy Briefs should be submitted via this [Google Form](#) using the naming convention described in [section 7](#). Should you have issues accessing the Google Form, which will require that

someone on your team has a Google account, you may email your presentation to csaw-policy@nyu.edu.

# 6    Presentation Guidelines

## 6.1    Semifinal (SF) Round Presentation

### 6.1.1    SF Presentation Deck Submission
- Presentation decks should be submitted to the Committee as a PowerPoint document
- Other presentation formats, such as Prezi, PDFs, etc., are not permitted
- Presentations should be submitted via this Google Form using the naming convention described in section 7. Should you have issues accessing the Google Form, which will require that someone on your team has a Google account, you may email your presentation to csaw-policy@nyu.edu.

### 6.1.2    SF Presentation Format & Guidelines
- Each team will have 10 minutes to present.
- All team members **must be present** during the Semifinal presentation
- Policy presentations should be addressed to the team's intended audience.
    - The audience is the specific senior-level decision makers who can take actionable steps to enact their policy (e.g., the US Secretary of State).
- 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.
- Following the presentation, judges will have 10 minutes for a question and answer period with each team, followed by 10 minutes of private feedback.

### 6.1.3    SF Presentation Rubric

Semifinal & Final Round Presentation Rubric (updated 23 October 2021)

## 6.2    Final Round (FR) Presentation

### 6.2.1    FR Presentation Deck Submission
- Presentation decks should be submitted to the Committee as a PowerPoint document
- Other presentation formats, such as Prezi, PDFs, etc., are not permitted
- Presentations should be submitted via this Google Form using the naming convention described in section 7. Should you have issues accessing the Google Form, which will require that someone on your team has a Google account, you may email your presentation to csaw-policy@nyu.edu.

### 6.2.2    FR Presentation Format
- Each team will have 15 minutes to present.
- All team members **must be present** during the Final presentation

- Policy presentations should be addressed to the team's intended audience.
  - The audience is the specific senior-level decision makers who can take actionable steps to enact their policy (e.g., the US Secretary of State).
- Following the presentation, judges will have up to 15 minutes for a question and answer period with each team.

### 6.2.3 FR Presentation Rubric
- [Semifinal & Final Round Presentation Rubric](#) (updated 23 October 2021)

## 7 Naming Conventions

To maintain anonymity during the grading process, all submission documents must be named using the following naming convention:

**TeamNumber_Topic_CSAW22_Brief**
**TeamNumber_Topic_CSAW22_Deck**

e.g. TeamD1_GeopoliticalClimate_CSAW22_Brief

Please do not include team member names in your submissions.

It is helpful, as well, to use your Team Number in the subject of emails sent to [csaw-policy@nyu.edu](mailto:csaw-policy@nyu.edu).

## 8 Workshops

An optional virtual Policy Writing Workshop and Policy Presentation Workshop will be held in late-September following the Registration Deadline. Workshops dates and times will be posted on [https://www.csaw.io/policy](https://www.csaw.io/policy) and emailed to all registered teams.

Update: In lieu of a live workshop, teams will be invited to watch an "orientation" video that will discuss policy writing and presentation tips, followed by an opportunity to meet with organizers during live Zoom "office hours."

## 9 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
- Determining and contacting finalist teams and team members

- Announcing the names of finalist and winning team members on csaw.io/policy
- 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
- Sending occasional updates regarding future CSAW events

Aside from announcing finalist and winners' names, CSAW will not rent, sell, or share personal data with anyone other than the competition organizers.

## 10    Version Updates