

15.4: Assignment- The Future of Unions

Scenario

In the 1900s, union organizers and union members played a critical role in establishing the basic rights of working people: negotiating better (if not equitable) wages, reasonable work hours and safer working conditions for laborers who had previously been considered expendable. However, we live in very different times. Although some industries and business models are still exploitative, our current labor markets and socio-political dynamics are significantly different than those of the 1900s. Are unions still relevant? What is the future of unions?

Your Task

In your next rotation, you have been assigned to the firm's Employee Relations practice. This practice provides research and advisory services, including benefit and wage benchmarking. One of the sub-specialties is tracking union organization efforts, public sentiment and legislation and—in a departure from the usual practice—advising both unions and management on how to develop employee value propositions and collaborative management practices.

Your task is to develop a 1 to 2-page draft position statement for the firm's Employee Relations principal, distilling what you've learned in this module. Your position statement must reflect current realities, including additional research as needed.

Additional Information: Read James Sherk's "[Unions need to reinvent themselves](#)" (cited in the module) commentary for perspective on what the principal is looking for in substance and tone.

Grading Rubric

Criteria	Inadequate (40%)	Minimal (60%)	Adequate (80%)	Exemplary (100%)	Total Points
Organization and format	2 pts Writing lacks logical organization. It may show some coherence but ideas lack unity. Serious errors and generally is an unorganized format and information.	3 pts Writing is coherent and logically organized, using a format suitable for the material presented. Some points may be contextually misplaced and/or stray from the topic. Transitions may be evident but not used throughout the essay. Organization and format used may detract from understanding the material presented.	4 pts Writing is coherent and logically organized, using a format suitable for the material presented. Transitions between ideas and paragraphs create coherence. Overall unity of ideas is supported by the format and organization of the material presented.	5 pts Writing shows high degree of attention to details and presentation of points. Format used enhances understanding of material presented. Unity clearly leads the reader to the writer's conclusion and the format and information could be used independently.	5 pts

Criteria	Inadequate (40%)	Minimal (60%)	Adequate (80%)	Exemplary (100%)	Total Points
Content	8 pts Some but not all required questions are addressed. Content and/or terminology is not properly used or referenced. Little or no original thought is present in the writing. Concepts presented are merely restated from the source, or ideas presented do not follow the logic and reasoning presented throughout the writing.	12 pts All required questions are addressed but may not be addressed with thoughtful consideration and/or may not reflect proper use of content terminology or additional original thought. Additional concepts may not be present and/or may not be properly cited sources.	16 pts All required questions are addressed with thoughtful consideration reflecting both proper use of content terminology and additional original thought. Some additional concepts may be presented from other properly cited sources, or originated by the author following logic and reasoning they've clearly presented throughout the writing.	20 pts All required questions are addressed with thoughtful in-depth consideration reflecting both proper use of content terminology and additional original thought. Additional concepts are clearly presented from properly cited sources, or originated by the author following logic and reasoning they've clearly presented throughout the writing.	20 pts
Development —Critical Thinking	8 pts Shows some thinking and reasoning but most ideas are underdeveloped, unoriginal, and/or do not address the questions asked. Conclusions drawn may be unsupported, illogical or merely the author's opinion with no supporting evidence presented.	12 pts Content indicates thinking and reasoning applied with original thought on a few ideas, but may repeat information provided and/ or does not address all of the questions asked. The author presents no original ideas, or ideas do not follow clear logic and reasoning. The evidence presented may not support conclusions drawn.	16 pts Content indicates original thinking, cohesive conclusions, and developed ideas with sufficient and firm evidence. Clearly addresses all of the questions or requirements asked. The evidence presented supports conclusions drawn.	20 pts Content indicates synthesis of ideas, in-depth analysis and evidence beyond the questions or requirements asked. Original thought supports the topic, and is clearly a well-constructed response to the questions asked. The evidence presented makes a compelling case for any conclusions drawn.	20 pts

Criteria	Inadequate (40%)	Minimal (60%)	Adequate (80%)	Exemplary (100%)	Total Points
Grammar, Mechanics, Style	2 pts Writing contains many spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors, making it difficult for the reader to follow ideas clearly. There may be sentence fragments and run-ons. The style of writing, tone, and use of rhetorical devices disrupts the content. Additional information may be presented but in an unsuitable style, detracting from its understanding.	3 pts Some spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors are present, interrupting the reader from following the ideas presented clearly. There may be sentence fragments and run-ons. The style of writing, tone, and use of rhetorical devices may detract from the content. Additional information may be presented, but in a style of writing that does not support understanding of the content.	4 pts Writing is free of most spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors, allowing the reader to follow ideas clearly. There are no sentence fragments and run-ons. The style of writing, tone, and use of rhetorical devices enhance the content. Additional information is presented in a cohesive style that supports understanding of the content.	5 pts Writing is free of all spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors and written in a style that enhances the reader's ability to follow ideas clearly. There are no sentence fragments and run-ons. The style of writing, tone, and use of rhetorical devices enhance the content. Additional information is presented to encourage and enhance understanding of the content.	5 pts
				Total:	50 pts

Contributors and Attributions

This page titled [15.4: Assignment- The Future of Unions](#) is shared under a [CC BY 4.0](#) license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by [Nina Burokas](#) via [source content](#) that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.