

Latitus Jones

Reflection Paper One

Alliance for Citizen Engagement

Date: 09/19/2025

ODU Fall 2025

Professor Teresa Duvall

### **Internship Reflection Paper One**

#### **First 50 Hours**

Working as a Technology Policy Fellow in the Alliance for Citizen Engagement for fifty hours has given me a new appreciation for the compliance world of Cybersecurity, and I have truly begun to hone my writing skills to create informative policy briefs for the nation. This internship has required incredible discipline to complete, especially with this semester's coursework present, and it has helped me improve my time management and planning skills to ensure deadlines are met to the best of my ability. It has also given me an amazing opportunity to meet individuals from all across the country, providing future networking options once I graduate. These first fifty hours have been a great beginning for me to become a cybersecurity professional.

The start of the internship involved the various onboarding materials and modules. These included giving a biography of myself to be posted on their website, as well as a meeting that gave me a chance to introduce myself to others who are a part of the program. One of the things that immediately caught my attention was the professionalism of the individuals in charge of the internship. This was a huge disconnect for me when comparing it to my own job experience,

which was refreshing as I feel that I am valued and pushed to give my best in all I may do. The environment is also very friendly as the team leads as well as directors are available to myself and the other interns at almost any time.

The next task that we were given involved evaluating the impact of Artificial Intelligence on publication. To do so, we had a workshop and meeting that gave us a chance to analyze the differences between an AI-generated brief and a human-written brief. With this, they were able to give us their expectations, and we were then authorized to start our brief one and brief two processes. Our next task was to create a research plan outline, which required us to do research on two different topics that we could create unbiased and timeless briefs on to help inform voters on legislation governing our technology. This task took me a considerable amount of time as I was debating and narrowing down topics that could be of interest to me to publish for the program.

The value of leaders who love what they do and a team that is all motivated by wanting to make their mark on the world has been the lesson I have learned early on in this internship experience. It inspires to be better and push forward regardless of the assignment. Every day is a chance to continue to push their mission of giving the nation a chance to hear news from a place that lacks the bias that is so prevalent in the United States. While doing so, I also get a chance to hone my writing skills and enhance my knowledge of the compliance regulations of cyberspace.

My first fifty hours are the beginning of a long journey, and I have truly learned that it is not easy, as balancing this and everything else in life has proven very difficult. However, I am hopeful that I can continue to find my way and manage all that is to come. One of my primary motivations in this internship is the fact that my work could change lives, and I have a chance to create something that truly matters. In the next fifty hours, I look forward to completing my first

publication and then transitioning into my second brief as well as beginning the planning for my joint report, which will be a collaborative effort with other interns.