GU POLITICS FELLOW PAULETTE ANISKOFF
Discussion Group Outline
Modern Advocacy

Discussion Group Synopsis
Living in a more partisan, media driven world, how can a passionate group of people shape the future of public policy? What is modern advocacy? And how do coalitions and politics change the landscape and effectiveness of public policy. This is not a discussion about which policies are best, but how outsiders can be most effective in moving their agenda forward. As Director of the Office of Public Engagement in the Obama White House, Paulette Aniskoff had a front row seat to the successes and failures of those who wanted to change law, policy and culture around critical social issues.

Week 1 — SEXUAL ASSAULT ON CAMPUS - How students and parents created a movement to change the culture on campuses
Without money or the hope of legislation, a committed group of individuals used the levers of power to push for a White House Task Force to Prevent Sexual Assault, and a campaign that spread to 500 campuses.

Week 2 — COMING OUT OF THE SHADOWS - How Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) brought students out of the shadows and into the spotlight
After many years of disappointment on immigration reform, undocumented students made a push to have work permits and be protected from deportation. The campaign they ran got the attention of President Obama, and enormous public support.

Week 3 — FOLLOW THE RAINBOW - How the long fight for LGBT equality, suddenly found a path through the Supreme Court
Although it may seem as though LGBT equality was inevitable, activists worked for years to deliberately bring this issue to the forefront. Using everything from pop culture to veterans benefits to the Supreme Court, follow the long rainbow path to equality.

Week 4 — COMING ALL THE WAY INTO THE TENT - How one advocate decided to fix the place she most hated from the inside
After Hurricane Katrina, civil rights activists pushed for many changes within the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Here’s the story of how one ultimately changed it from the inside.
Week 5 — SUCCÈS EN PARIS. ENFIN! - How climate activists changed tactics for a big win in Paris
After a major climate bill defeat in congress, advocates had to regroup and chart out a completely different path to success.

Week 6 — MOMS VS. THE NRA - How moms have begun to takedown one of the most powerful lobbying forces in the world: the NRA
After years of attempts to change gun laws, professional advocates couldn’t crack the code until the moms showed up. A group of angry mothers have changed the face of gun safety forever, and they aren’t going away.

Week 7 — NEWT GINGRICH AND VAN JONES WALK INTO A BAR...
Most policy makers agree that the criminal justice system in the United States is broken. If everyone agrees, why isn’t it fixed? How do civil rights advocates work with both sides of the aisle to push for reform and what progress can be made without legislation.

Week 8 — SHAPING PUBLIC POLICY IN THE AGE OF TRUMP
With a divided Congress and a very different President, what successes can advocates expect in 2019 and beyond? How can progressives think past the politics of resistance to shape policy within our current climate? Where do we go from here?