



RESEARCH/COMMUNITY PILLARS: CRE² Black Papers

Similar to white papers,¹ CRE² envisions “Black Papers” to be authoritative reports that inform readers succinctly about a complex issue. More concretely, CRE² Black Papers will be designed to assist stakeholders and community members in understanding an issue/subject, making a decision, or solving a problem. Initially, CRE² Black Papers will focus specifically on issues related to race and/or ethnicity pertinent to the St. Louis area and may advocate for specific solutions or provide critical information and possible pathways to understand and/or address issues.

CRE² will seek applications for commissioned Black Papers from at least two governmental agencies, community organizations, non-profits, and/or for-profits per year. These entities will apply to CRE², requesting Black Papers on some area of organizational need that has race and/or ethnicity as a core component. The CRE² leadership team will vet the proposals, select at least two Black Papers proposals, and invite CRE² affiliated faculty to write the Papers. Each faculty author will be paid \$1000 per commissioned Black Paper. CRE² will from time to time commission its own Black Papers.

Although we envision initially focusing Black Papers on regional needs and organizations, we anticipate making the resource available nationally and internationally within a few years.

Black Paper Logistics:

CRE² Black Paper teams will work closely with the [Clark-Fox Policy Institute](#) and the [Social Policy Institute](#).

Papers will be up to 10 pages long and utilize the following format:

Abstract - overviews of main points

Problem Statement - explicitly states the issue the paper will address

Background - provides the reader with the background information needed to become familiar with the issue being presented

Solution - using the gathered evidence present a solution to the issue

¹ The white paper was a product of the RAND Corporation from 1993 to 2003 and was meant to convey formally information on a policy issue and to summarize key research findings relevant to pending decisions or policy problems. White Papers drew on a strong body of research and were directed to a specific audience. See: https://www.rand.org/pubs/white_papers.html

Conclusion - summarizes major findings

References - lists of sources used

Because Black Papers are designed to meet immediate regional and local needs. For Black Papers that are commissioned with community entities, once selected, the faculty authors will meet with the commissioning organization leaders at least once prior to beginning the report to the need, discuss the research methods, and agree on the final format and timeline for completion of the Black Paper. The faculty authors will also review the Black Paper with the community organization before it is posted and shared on the CRE² webpage and shared more broadly with the St. Louis community.

Helpful Sources:

https://www.nist.gov/system/files/documents/tip/wp/guide_for_white_papers.pdf

<https://www-cdn.law.stanford.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/White-Papers-Guidelines.pdf>

<https://libguides.tulane.edu/c.php?g=182440&p=6222694>

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/subject_specific_writing/professional_technical_writing/white_papers/index.html