

Hey y'all. Thank you for taking the time to send these emails. Template #1 is meant for Black Public Affairs students to send. Template #2 is for non-Black PA students to send in solidarity. <3 Dani

Template #1

Send to: abrams@luskin.ucla.edu; gilens@ucla.edu; vmukhija@ucla.edu; meredith.phillips@ucla.edu; segura@luskin.ucla.edu

SUBJECT LINE: [Action Requested] An Appeal on Behalf of Black Public Affairs Students

Dear Luskin Administration & Faculty,

The most recent murders of innocent and unarmed Black people have put Black Bruins under unprecedented amounts of stress and anxiety. The feelings we are experiencing are incomprehensible and have played a major role in the decline of our mental state. We felt pain after seeing the cruel and unjust murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and Christian Cooper go unacknowledged. Our pain has only been magnified after witnessing the murder of George Floyd. The online circulation of these violent acts has greatly harmed our mental health and ability to focus.

The most recent UCPD incident has also caused us to feel unsafe in our own university community. It's simply another example of how institutional racism is so deeply ingrained in police forces nationwide. The seemingly never-ending succession of these events has caused a rapid decline in our mental and physical health.

Despite the fact that finals are steadily approaching, seeing our own being murdered in cold blood simply cannot be pushed to the back of our minds just to complete essays and exams. We are overwhelmed, we are hurt, we are angry, and we want to know that our administration cares.

The Afrikan Student Union at UCLA drafted a [petition](#) encouraging UCLA administration to adjust finals, and has received an outstanding 3,500 signatures in only its first hour of circulation. As of June 2nd, the number has reached **14.5k** and counting. This number highlights the fact that UCLA's student body understands and acknowledges this issue, and we urge the Luskin administration to do the same.

We implore you to mandate that our final exams and projects are structured as **no-harm** across all Public Affairs courses. Any and all accommodations would be a great help. If exams/project requirements could be shortened, or deadlines are extended, it would help us tremendously. We ask that Luskin do its part in supporting us during these painful and turbulent times. We ask you to please demonstrate compassion towards us as we are continually attacked with hate and violence.

Many of us joined the Public Affairs department because of its claims to give us the tools to mitigate social injustices we experience on a daily basis. We ask the department to apply its lessons to real, equitable policies at this time. We appreciate the compassion and acknowledgment of our pain in the most recent email sent to the undergraduate body. We would like to follow up on your commitment to putting your principles into practice.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our request. We hope to hear back from you regarding what options and next steps may be available.

Sincerely,

Your name here

Template #2

Send to: abrams@luskin.ucla.edu; gilens@ucla.edu; vmukhija@ucla.edu; meredith.phillips@ucla.edu; segura@luskin.ucla.edu

SUBJECT LINE: [Action Requested] Taking Action in Solidarity with our Black Public Affairs Classmates

Dear Luskin Administration and Faculty,

As non-Black Public Affairs students, we are writing to express our tremendous concern about the impact that final exams will have on the mental and physical health of our Black classmates. The unjust murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd, the life-threatening actions of Amy Cooper, and the violent conduct of the UCPD in our own neighborhood have led to fear and anxiety which is further compounded by the disproportionate effect of COVID-19 on the Black community. As we approach finals week, we recognize that these conditions will place Black Public Affairs students at an unfair academic disadvantage due to traumatic circumstances out of their control.

We cannot begin to understand the pain that our Black classmates are going through. As we work to advocate in our communities and become better allies, we ask that you, as administration, do your part and prioritize equity in our learning environment. We implore you to mandate that our final exams and projects are structured as **no-harm**, where they will only benefit students' grades if taken, across all Public Affairs courses. In addition, we urgently request **shortened exams** and **extended deadlines** for final assignments.

The Public Affairs major is defined by our commitment to social justice, and now more than ever, we need to align our actions with our values. Our Black classmates are directly facing the consequences of state-sanctioned violence and graphic content on social media that transcends from Minneapolis to our very own communities in our hometowns and in Westwood.

In light of these traumas, we have been placed in a position where we must choose between actively supporting our Black classmates or focusing on finishing up our Spring Quarter. We believe that remaining neutral in times of injustice brings power to the oppressor, and therefore, staying silent is not an option. This is not a joint effort to get finals canceled for non-Black students, but rather an ask that you exercise compassion and leniency with Black students in our major.

As of today, June 2nd, a [petition](#) drafted this past weekend by the Afrikan Student Union at UCLA to adjust finals has received over **14.5k** signatures. Although we greatly appreciate the email we received from you about anti-racist resources, the voices of the student body demand action within our academic environment, and we would be grateful to hear from you regarding the ways our department will respond.

As quickly as Luskin came to support students for the COVID-19 pandemic, we ask that you do the same in supporting the community that is most vulnerable during this crisis. Thank you for your time, and we look forward to continuing this dialogue with you.

In solidarity,
Your name here