

POLICY PROJECTS

Students in Public Policy Methods complete policy analyses on randomly assigned issues. Over the course of the semester, they do memorandum exercises intended to help them apply concepts introduced in [Policy Analysis: Concepts and Practice](#) to their issues. Near the end of the semester, each student submits a fifteen page policy analysis (exclusive of an executive summary and an *unlimited* number of pages of appendices) to me and to one other student. The other student writes a collegial critique and I prepare a more comprehensive evaluation following a [template](#) that helps me cover important points systematically.

Projects for 1990 randomly assigned from the following list:

Evaluate the regulations of the Environmental Protection Agency concerning the disposal of waste oil. Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

What role should the federal government play in the regulation of cable television? Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Technology

Federal law currently prohibits telephone companies from offering cable television and other video services. Should the prohibition be lifted? Client: Chair, Federal Communications Commission

Evaluate the National Vaccine Program. Is new legislation needed? Client: Chair, House Subcommittee on Health and Environment

Evaluate the Food and Drug Administration regulations governing the testing and marketing of breakthrough drugs such as those used to treat AIDS. Client: Chair, House Subcommittee on Health and Environment

What role should the State of New York play in dealing with the risks posed by residential radon exposure? Client: Office of Public Health, New York State Department of Health

Should the federal government play a role in encouraging the development and use of biodegradable plastics? Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

What role should the federal government play in reducing the infant mortality rate in the United States? Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources

Should the administration support more stringent minimum fleet average mileage standards (CAFE) for automobile manufacturers? Client: Chair, President's Council on Environmental Quality

Should campaign laws be changed to reduce the apparent advantage enjoyed by incumbent members of the House of Representatives? Client: President, Common Cause

What role should the federal government play in supporting undergraduate education? Client: Chair, House Committee on Education and Labor

Evaluate the Department of Agriculture's regulation of the lemon industry (Marketing Order 910). Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Evaluate the effectiveness of the Medicaid program as a safety_net for ensuring the availability of long_term nursing care for the elderly. Client: Chair, House Select Committee on Aging

Should the federal government require firms to grant parental leave? Client: President, National Organization of Women

Should the anti_trust protections given the insurance industry by the McCarran_Ferguson Act be modified? Client: Chair, House Committee on the Judiciary

Should the federal government preempt state laws governing product liability? Client: Chair, House Committee on Energy and Commerce

Should the State of New York discourage the use of non_biodegradable disposable diapers? Client: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

About a dozen states now employ "shock incarceration" __ correctional boot camps that provide highly disciplined, intense, and short_term experiences for inmates as a substitute for longer prison terms. What role should "shock incarceration" play in the New York State correctional system? Client: Director, Criminal Justice, New York State Executive Department

Increasing concentrations of carbon dioxide and other gases may be contributing to global warming caused by a "greenhouse" effect. One way to slow the increase in the growth of atmospheric carbon dioxide is to expand the world's forest acreage. Evaluate the potential for modifying the Conservation Reserve Program of the Food Security Act of 1985 (PL 99_198) to expand U.S. forest acreage. Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Evaluate the teacher certification system used in the State of New York. Client: Chair, Committee on Education, New York State Senate

Evaluate the policies of the State of New York concerning immunization against childhood diseases. Client: Office of Public Health, New York State Department of Health

Should the State of New York change its policy concerning safety inspections of automobiles? Client: Chair, Committee on Transportation, New York State Senate

Assess and evaluate the use of sex as a rating factor in insurance sold in the State of New York. Client: Chair, Committee on Insurance, New York State Senate

Evaluate the policies of the State of New York concerning the disposal of medical wastes. Client: Office of Public Health, New York State Department of Health

Evaluate federal regulations governing the sale of reconstituted milk. Client: Chair, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, U.S. House of Representatives

Should New York State alter its regulations governing the sale and advertising of wine coolers? Client: Commissioner, New York State Department of Health

The Jones Act requires that all shipping between U.S. ports be done using U.S. ships and crews. Should it be repealed? Client: Legislative Affairs Office, National Association of Manufacturers

Evaluate the rules proposed by the Federal Aviation Administration concerning travel by infants on commercial airline flights. Client: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget

Develop and evaluate alternatives for reducing the federal deficit by selling assets such as the federal power authorities. Clients: Robert Strauss and Drew Lewis, Co_Chairman, National Economic Commission

RJR Nabisco Inc. and other companies have developed "smokeless" cigarettes. How should this new product be regulated by the Food and Drug Administration? Client: Dr. Frank E. Young, Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration

Should public policy encourage greater participation by private enterprise in the exploration and commercialization of space? If so, how? Client: Representative Robert A. Roe, Chairman, House Committee on Science, Space and Technology

Evaluate the Food and Drug Administration regulations governing the testing and marketing of medical devices. Client: Representative Henry A. Waxman, Chairman, House Subcommittee on Health and Environment