

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 1992 randomly assigned from the following list:

The Agriculture Department dispenses about \$200 million dollars annually through its Market Promotion Program to subsidize the advertising of U.S. agricultural products in foreign markets. Should this program be continued? Client: Director, Office of Management and Budget

On June 19, 1985 the Supreme Court struck down a 1985 federal law that required states without approved disposal sites for low_level radioactive waste by 1996 to take legal possession of the wastes. What policy should the federal government now adopt toward low_level radioactive waste disposal? Client: Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency

Between 1980 and 1988 the number of passenger "emplanements" in the U.S. more than doubled. Yet no new airports have opened since 1974 and only one new airport is under construction. Should the federal government play a more active role in expanding airport capacity? Client: Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration

HIV appears to be spreading among intravenous drug users through the sharing of hypodermic needles. Should New York State change its laws to make sterile needles more available to intravenous drug users? Client: New York State Department of Health

It is likely that the size of the United States military will be reduced over the next ten years. Should the Marine Corps be eliminated or substantially reduced in size as part of this reduction? Client: Chair, House Armed Services Committee

Should the federal government adopt policies to encourage greater use of natural gas as a motor vehicle fuel? Client: Secretary, Department of Energy

California has imposed a tax on cigarettes to fund anti_smoking advertising. Should New York State adopt a similar approach? Client: Office of Public Health, New York State Department of Health

Should New York State legalize the use, possession, cultivation, or sale of marijuana? Client: Office of Public Health, New York State Department of Health

Should the United States continue to support the international ban on trade in ivory? Client: President's Council on Environmental Quality

International treaties banning the harvesting of certain species of whales have resulted in their populations reaching sufficient numbers so that it may be possible to renew harvesting them without threatening their extinction. What policy should the United States propose with respect to the harvesting of renewed species? Client: President's Council on Environmental Quality

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

Evaluate the Orphan Drug Act of 1983. Is new legislation desirable? Client: Chair, House Subcommittee on Health and Environment

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

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 regulate the use of the bovine growth hormone in the raising of dairy cows? Client: Chair, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, U.S. House of Representatives

Evaluate the federal price support program for rice. Client: Chair, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, U.S. House of Representatives

Should New York State change its policies to attempt to reduce the incidence of pregnancy among unmarried teenagers? Client: New York State Department of Health

The New York State legislature recently passed legislation requiring the use of community rating in the setting of health insurance premiums. Should the legislation be revised or repealed? Client: New York State Commissioner of Insurance

Many researchers believe that too few women have regular mammograms. Should New York adopt policies to encourage mammograms? Client: New York State Department of Health

Should New York State change its policies governing the practice of midwifery? Client: Committee on Health, New York State Assembly

Should New York State alter its policies to increase the rate at which teenagers complete high school? Client: New York State Commissioner of Education

Currently pesticides not approved for use in the United States can be exported for use abroad. Should so called "circle_of_poison" legislation be passed to prevent the export of pesticides not approved for use in the United States? Client: Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency

The federal Asbestos Hazard and Emergency Response Act has led public and private schools to undertake the removal of asbestos. Should the act be rewritten to encourage schools whose asbestos is adequately sealed within structures to not remove it? Client: President's Council on Environmental Quality

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

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

Should the Federal government change its policies governing the provision of cable television and other video services? Client: Chair, Federal Communications Commission

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

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

Should the federal government change the Civil Service System so that agencies can more easily hire employees for contracts of fixed duration? Client: Office of Management and Budget

Should the McCarran_Ferguson Act be repealed or substantially revised? Client: Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee