

## 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 1995 randomly assigned from the following list:**

Does the Indian Regulatory Gaming Act of 1988 provide an adequate framework for regulating gambling offered by tribes? Client: Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior

Since the federal government introduced provisions for the seizure of property related to certain crimes under the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984, many states have adopted similar forfeiture laws. Should the New York State forfeiture law be altered to better protect the rights of innocent people? Client: Director of Criminal Justice, Office of the Governor

Provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act place restrictions on the disciplinary measures schools can apply to disabled students. Can the provisions be revised to strike a better balance between protection of the rights of the disabled and the general educational function of schools? Client: Chairman, House Committee on Education and Labor

Should the Endangered Species Act be revised to require that compensation be given to landowners who are restricted in the use of their property because it provides habitat for endangered species? Client: Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior

Should New York State modify its laws and regulations that require health and education professionals to report suspected cases of the maltreatment of children? Client: Chairman, New York Senate Committee on Children and Families

What role, if any, should New York State play in facilitating the provision of information on the quality of nursing homes to consumers? Client: Director, Office for the Aging

Should New York State require school districts to provide systematic information to the public about educational outcomes? Client: New York State Department of Education

Should Congress revise the Americans with Disabilities Act to restrict private party suits, especially with respect to mental disabilities? Client: Chairman, Senate Committee on Education and Labor

Should the framework under which the Food and Drug Administration regulates medical devices be revised? Client: Chairman, Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee

New York State ranks hospitals and cardiac surgeons in terms of their success in heart bypass surgery. Can the ranking process and its use be improved? Client: New York State Department of Health

Should the federal government return the choice of highway speed limits to the states? Client: Chairman, House Committee on Public Works and Transportation

New York State mandates community rating with respect to health insurance. Does this policy require modification? Client: Superintendent, New York State Insurance Department

What role, if any, should the federal government play in the development and application of quality assurance measures for Health Maintenance Organizations? Client: Administrator, Health Care Financing Administration

Consider alternatives for privatizing the electromagnetic spectrum. Client: Chairman, Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee

Consider alternatives for reducing the costs of the State University of New York through the closing of campuses. Client: SUNY Board of Trustees

Should New York State take steps to encourage higher rates of mammography? Client: Commissioner, Department of Health

Consider alternatives for New York State to reduce Medicaid costs through enrollment of those eligible in Health Maintenance Organizations. Client: Commissioner, 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 or revised? Client: Legislative Affairs Office, National Association of Manufacturers

Recent studies suggest that many birth defects of the central nervous system could be avoided if susceptible women consumed more folic acid prior to pregnancy. Should the federal government require that folic acid be added to some staple food? Client: Surgeon General, Department of Health and Human Services

In 1992 the Department of Agriculture recommended that poultry be routinely irradiated to reduce the health risks of bacterial infection. The proposal was rejected. Reconsider the recommendation. Client: Secretary, Department of Agriculture

Should New York State adopt policies to discourage the use of disposable diapers? Client: Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation

Evaluate the harvesting and allocation of human kidneys as transplant organs. Client: Director, National Institutes of Health

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

Current copyright law and its enforcement have raised the costs of photocopied course materials at colleges and universities. Should the laws be changed to strike a better balance between the interests of copyright owners and the effective educational use of copyrighted materials? Client: Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee