

## 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 1996 randomly assigned from the following list:**

Should New York State take actions to increase the vaccination rate for children and teenagers against the major childhood diseases? Client: New York State Department of Health

Immigrants from Korea, China, and Mexico often establish what sociologists call "rotating savings and credit associations," which typically involve groups of about ten to twenty persons agreeing to contribute a fixed amount of money to a common pool each month. The amount collected each month is then allocated by some mechanism to one member. Often the amounts received are used to start small businesses. Should New York State take any actions to either discourage or encourage the formation of such associations? Client: New York State Department of Economic Development

Should New York State lower the minimum legal age for drinking alcoholic beverages to 18 years? Client: Governor's Office

Regulations currently limit the domestic and international marketing of encryption programs that would increase the security and privacy of Internet communications. Should these regulations be eliminated? Client: Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee

Does the 1994 Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act provide an adequate framework for the regulation of food supplements? Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources

Should the U.S. build a ballistic missile defense system? Client: Chair, House National Security Subcommittee on Military Research and Development

It has been estimated that various tax "loopholes" cost the federal government \$400 billion annually in lost revenue. Evaluate alternatives for closing loopholes to raise at least \$50 billion additional tax revenue annually. Client: Chair, House Ways and Means Committee

The 1978 Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act sets conditions under which utilities are required to purchase electricity from independent power generators. Should these conditions be changed? Client: Chair, House Energy and Commerce Committee

The New England ground fishery was once an abundant source of cod, haddock, and yellowtail flounder. Currently, however, stocks of these fish are at record lows. Should the 1976 Magnuson Fishery and Conservation Act be revised to provide a better framework for management of the New England Ground fishery? Client: Chair, House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee

Should the federal government alter its policies concerning the ownership of fossils found on federal lands? Client: Secretary, Department of the Interior

California has imposed a tax on cigarettes to fund anti-smoking advertising. Should New York State adopt a similar approach? Client: 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

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 New York State make a greater effort to establish paternity in cases of illegitimate births to teenage mothers? Client: New York State Department of Social Services

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

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

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 laws similar to those in Minnesota that allow students to attend public schools in districts other than the ones in which they live? Client: New York State Board of Regents

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

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

Review the Food and Drug Administration's regulation of the direct advertising of prescription drugs to consumers. Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources

Evaluate import quotas and related federal programs affecting the domestic sugar market. Client: Chair, House Committee on Agriculture

Should New York State prohibit the use of sex as a rating factor in automobile insurance? Client: New York State Superintendent of Insurance

Should the federal government regulate the disposal of the batteries used in flashlights, radios, and other consumer products? Client: Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency

Governor Pataki has recently taken actions to restrict advertising for New York State's lotteries. To what extent should advertising for state-run gambling be restricted? Client: Division of the Lottery

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

In view of the public health issues surrounding the spread of HIV, should New York State change laws governing prostitution? In particular, should prohibition be replaced with some form of regulation? Client: Commissioner, Department of Health

In 1992 the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration banned the sale of silicone gel-filled breast implants. Recent studies suggest that silicone implants may not be related to previously suspected health risks. Should the FDA lift or modify its ban? Client: Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration

Businesses operating in New York State continue to have concern about the high costs of workers' compensation insurance. How might the current system be changed to reduce its costs? Client: Governor's Office

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