

PLS 304 – Introduction to Public Policy Analysis
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Exercise: The Policy Process

Directions: As a group, discuss some common policy problems that should be addressed by the federal government and then answer the following questions. Appoint someone from your group to report out the conclusions of your analysis.

- Identify 3 problems that are on the systemic/noninstitutional agenda
 - Why have these issues not been elevated to the governmental agenda?
 - What might be necessary for these issues to be elevated? Why are they not receiving attention?
 - Are interest groups concerned about these issues?
 - Why isn't the public concerned?
- Identify 3 problems that have been elevated to the institutional/governmental agenda
 - How did these issues get elevated?
 - Do pluralist or elitist models do a better job of explaining why these issues were elevated rather than the items you identified on systemic agenda?
 - Were any triggering or focusing events involved in elevating these issues?
 - Has the media played a role in elevating the issues?
 - Are there competing interest groups associated with the problems?
- Use the typology in table 3.2 in the reserve reading that looks at the costs and benefits of policies and whether they are specific or diffuse to answer the following
 - Place all 6 problems in the proper cell in table 3.2. Keep in mind that competing policy proposals for the problems you identified could be located in different cells
 - If any of your cells are empty, identify a problem that could fit in the cell and the type of agenda it resides on
 - Do you agree with the findings? In other words, if the cell suggests inaction do you agree with the conclusion?
 - What does this typology suggest about the importance of framing policy problems?