

PLS 505 Policy Analysis
Rationales for Public Policy Exercise
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Directions: Many people believe that government should only become involved when the free market fails. Listed below are several activities routinely provided by local government. For each activity, describe the economic rationale(s) that support government action in each case. Be as specific as possible and be sure to use the concepts from the Weimer and Vining (1999) readings to support your arguments. Based on these readings, how should the service, if it is to be provided, should be allocated among citizens (to some, to all, only to those who pay, etc.)?

- Zoning of land uses
- Provision of drinking water
- Constructing a sewage treatment plant and sewer lines
- Construction and maintenance of roads
- Subsidizing rent for low income families
- Fire protection
- Solid waste collection
- Provision of recreational facilities
- Deferment of taxes on a new industry for five years
- Using taxpayer money to build a sports stadium
- Construction and maintenance of a convention center
- Mosquito control