

INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF JAPAN
Public Management and Policy Analysis Program
Graduate School of International Relations

ADC5006 (2 Credits)
Introduction to Policy Analysis
Winter 2019

Term Paper

This term paper accounts for 20 percent of your final score. You are asked to write a memorandum that explains a public policy and conducts a brief analysis.

1. Selection of a Public Policy

You may choose any policy area as long as it can be explained effectively by what is discussed in this course. A good candidate is one whose policy objective (policy problem), policy instrument (solution), necessary resources (e.g., budget, labor, equipment), and expected consequences (e.g., monetary and non-monetary benefits) are relatively easier to be specified. Do not choose too big/complicated (e.g., Economic policy in Abe administration) or too small one (e.g., building a new bridge in Urasa).

2. Contents of Memorandum

The memorandum is expected to include following components.

2.1 Background: you need to provide a brief background of the policy in order to explain why the policy was initiated. The policy needs to be interesting and significant; do not try trivial and/or boring one. You may cite an interesting social event like a corruption scandal to highlight the necessity. You need to specify the scope (e.g., particular organization or region) and time-span (e.g., 2000-2015) of the policy.

2.2 Policy problem and objectives: Highlight the gap between the current state and desired state (future state). Of course, you need to mention the purposes (objectives) of the policy. A policy may have multiple objectives (goals). Try to provide specific indicators (numbers) of an objective rather than abstract expression (e.g., 2 percent reduction in annual crime rate rather than safety improvement).

2.3 Policy instrument (measure or solution): Describe which policy instrument was chosen to achieve the policy goal. For example, a local government decides to employ a sprinkler system to remove snow 20 percent more efficiently (here sprinkler system is a policy instrument; snow removal is the policy problem; 20% efficiency is the policy goal). Do not simply list policy instruments but explain how they are expected to achieve the policy objective. The causal relationship between a policy instrument and a policy objective needs to be validated, if it is not clear enough.

2.4 Resources to be mobilized: Describe whether the policy is plausible with special respect to resources available (e.g., labor force, equipment, technology, knowledge, time limit, and others). If sufficient budget and relevant technology are not available, a policy is poorly formulated in order for symbolic or political gains.

2.5 Your analysis (at least two pages) may be one of the following directions.

- To show the policy was badly formulated with respect to policy problem, policy objective, policy instrument, and resources available (plausibility).
- To discuss the causal relationship between the policy objective and instrument.
- To conduct a simple cost benefit analysis by identifying major stakeholders and cost and benefit items. You don't need to provide correct monetary values of cost and benefit (High/low, Yes/no, increase/decrease will work).
- To estimate major cost and/or benefit of a public policy if such estimation is the core issue of the policy analysis. You may employ an econometric method or management science tools.
- To discuss potential advantages and challenges or strength and weakness of the policy.

3. Meeting with the Instructor

You may talk to the instructor individually to find a relevant policy if you want. Or you may raise a policy issue in the class to discuss if it is relevant or not.

4. Format and Length

Use the memo template that is available on the Web page. The total number of pages should not exceed five (≤ 5).

5. 1st draft and Final Submission

There is no presentation of your term paper in the class. You need to submit a summary of a public policy (one or two paragraphs in a page) to the instructor in the class of week 5 (Friday, February 15). You just need to briefly indicate which specific public policy you want to study and how to analyze (e.g., causality assessment and cost-benefit analysis). Submit your final draft to the instructor by email by March 15th.

6. Plagiarism

You must avoid plagiarism by providing relevant sources of information you are referring.

End of term paper.