

Assignment I: Players, Problem Framing, and Science

Before understanding the extent to which a policy decision was or was not based on "sound" science, you must understand both the political and scientific landscapes. In this assignment, you are asked to write a 3- to 5-page paper (double-spaced) exploring the landscapes of your group's topic. You should at least address these questions:

- How and by whom was the policy problem framed?
- What political, social, and economic issues were defined as fundamental to the policy decision? By whom?
- What scientific issues were defined as fundamental to the policy decision? By whom?
- Which scientific institutions or organizations were drafted by the cognizant government agencies to do policy-relevant research? How was the research distributed among these institutions or organizations?
- To what extent were science issues defined differently by government, industry, and academic scientists?
- In your opinion, did the science done adequately address the policy question as formally defined?

Because this is a team-based class, you are allowed to divide these questions among yourselves in the group, such that each of you does not have to address all six questions. However, you should indicate which questions you chose to tackle at the beginning of your paper.