

Public Policy: Definition, Reasons for Study, Context

1. What Is Public Policy?

1) **Definition** - Public policy is normally thought of as government action to address some problems. The central focus is who get what, when and how. Public policy is basically a course of government action or inaction taken in response to social problems.

2) **Characteristics**

2. Why Do We Study Public Policy?

1) **Scientific · Academic Reasons** - Scholars at universities and in research institutes also have some of the same interests as policy analysts, scholars are more often concerned with building general knowledge of the policy process instead of affecting the process more directly.

2) **Professional Reasons** - Policy analysts inside and outside of government have a professional concern for public policy.

3) **Political Reasons** - People with political goals study public policy so as to learn about how to promote the policy options that they prefer.

3. Study Contents of Policy Science

1) Substantive field

2) Policy Process

a. problem identification

b. agenda setting

c. policy making

d. policy implementation

e. policy evaluation and termination

4. Rationales for Public Policy: Market Failures

1) Public Goods

2) Externalities

3) Natural Monopoly

4) Information Asymmetries