

Dr. Smith

Bill Klem's statement, "It ain't nothing till I call it," makes it clear that in sports, the officials create reality with their decisions. The rule book in baseball gives the umpires the power to call strikes and balls. The fact that all of the players and fans agree to abide by this policy give legitimacy to the power of the officials. Therefore the truth of play in a baseball game is not as important as the umpire's call related to that play. In this sense the umpire creates reality with his/her call.

This is similar to Deborah Stone's views on "rules" in relation to policy, in her book *Policy Paradox*. She states, "rules derive their enormous power from legitimacy, the quality of being perceived as good and right by those whose behavior they are meant to control. Legitimacy binds ruler-follower to rule-maker." (Stone, p 285) Much like the rules in baseball, the rules in the Polis derive their power from a sense of agreement among the people. It is in this marriage between rule-follower and rule-maker that policy makers become like Bill Klem. Policy creates a reality for people. For example, if in one State the law indicates that a blood alcohol level of .08 is considered a DWI and in another State the law indicates that a blood alcohol level of .10 is considered a DWI, the policy creates a reality for people. The same person, with the same blood alcohol level, could be considered impaired in one State and not impaired in another. In this sense the enforcement of the rule creates a reality much like an umpire in baseball.