

EDU 5420 Policy and Paradox – Outline

The policy issue that is our focus is the model of management or management system for schools. The policy question is, “How shall the schools be governed?”

There are four competing policy stances: (1) traditional union/parent/taxpayer coalition with a centralized bureaucracy; (2) C. Stone’s civic capacity; (3) Tough’s charter school community based organization; and (4) Bulkley’s portfolio management model. Our goal for this course is to use D. Stone’s framework to analyze these 4 policy proposals for the management of a school system. In order to accomplish this policy analysis, we first need to grasp Deborah Stone’s framework in order to use it as a tool for analyzing the 4 policy proposals.

In effect we have a dual task: (1) to comprehend D.Stone’s Policy Paradox framework, so we can use it and (2) to use that framework to analyze 4 competing policy stances now in the polis regarding the management of the school system -- to analyze the strategic representations of goals/ problems/ solutions made for these competing systems of governance.

For a visual presentation of the central task of this course, see the resource below: Product Matrix.

This is the research question:

In terms of Stone’s framework for political rhetoric , what strategic representations of school management [goals, problems, solutions] are made or implied by the advocates of the competing policies for management systems?

To complicate matters, we want to present our work as a research report, as if it were a 5-chapter research report or dissertation. See the resource “Research Report” for an outline of that format.

When you have studied these resources and think you understand the task, post to the forum your own version of the task.