

Briefing 1 — EEP100 — due Nov 10

You are a junior staffer for a politician. You have been asked to write a briefing on the following topic:

Please explain how a leader can promote an environmental program that will benefit the average citizen — but not special interest groups — and still get re-elected.

You do not need to promote a particular program, but it may be helpful to use a concrete example, e.g., restore ecosystems, manage groundwater in a sustainable way, reduce GHG emissions, off shore drilling, etc. Note that these are all public goods. You are not allowed to “solve” the problem by making them into private goods or by invoking Ostrom and *hoping* for a community norm to evolve. You are not allowed to declare a dictatorship.

You can/should discuss the role of competition, asymmetric information, principal-agent problems, collective action/free-riding/special interests, the interaction of implicit and explicit incentives, costs and benefits, and the possible role of information and communication on attaining the goal.

**Note:** You should NOT use jargon.

I suggest reading Olson’s *Logic of Collective Action* ASAP. Also read about Baptists and Bootleggers (<http://tinyurl.com/ygspwz>)

**Style:** Concise and powerful rhetoric is important. If your boss (or the grader) gets bored or confused, you will lose your job (and get a bad grade).

**Format:** One side of one page, 12 point type, single-spaced, one inch margins. Put the *last four numbers* of your student ID on the top right corner.

**Grading:** You will be graded by three of your peers (double-blind). They will give you a written critique (one page maximum) and rank your briefing out of the three that they read, i.e., gold (10 pts), silver (7 pts), bronze (5 pts). The GSIs and I will grade *their* critiques.