

SOLUTIONS

Policy instruments, as Deborah Stone points out, are ways of exerting power—of getting people to do what they otherwise might not do.

Note that each of the five types of solutions you read about for today is an “ideal type.” All policy strategies combine elements of these ideal types. But dividing them this way is analytically useful.

Inducements

How would you define inducements?

How do inducements work?

What assumptions does the theory of inducements rest on, and why might these assumptions be problematic in practice?

KEY POINT: Incentives/inducements involve the exercise of power, notwithstanding the rhetoric that portrays them as non-coercive; they work by capitalizing on the weakness of targets, not by empowering them: “one party sets the terms, makes the rules, monitors the other’s behavior, and decides when and whether to dispense the consequences” (271).

How do you make inducements work in the polis?

Rules

What are rules? (definition)

How do rules work?

What’s a good rule? What’s the tradeoff between precision and flexibility?

How do we make rules in the polis?

Facts/Persuasion

What is the relationship between facts and persuasion in politics?

What does it mean to “frame” information?

Rights

What is a right?

How is a legal right a policy solution?

What are the various kinds of rights?

How are new rights “made” in the polis?

Powers

Why do people in politics struggle over the appropriate level of government at which to make decisions, or the appropriate process to use?

What are the three different types of “constitutional engineering?”