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## Final Paper

**Objectives:** This paper is designed to provide a synthetic exercise, drawing on the readings and the class discussions that we have had. The idea is to demonstrate a link between the theory and actual programs designed to implement policy.

**Assignment:** Write a 15-20 page research paper on a topic of your choice. There are two styles of papers that students in this course have tended to use:

1. Pick an actual program that has been designed and implemented to pursue a policy in your field of interest. Dissect the program using the concepts of the course (i.e., the tools approach to program design). Speculate about works well in this program, and what might not work so well. Finally, design an improved program. Please be sure that your paper is linked to the readings for the course.
2. Pick a problem in your field of interest that policy might address. Then, using each tool one at a time consider how each tool might be used alone to address this problem. Finally, design a program that is a hybrid—that uses several tools together—that you feel would be more effective than any of the tools by themselves. Please be sure that your paper is linked to the readings for the course.

You are certainly invited to propose a third style of paper, but please discuss it with Mark before you get too far into it.