

Introduction to Planning Institutions and Processes in Developing Countries (11.701)
Assignment 2, due October 6, Monday
(covering Sections V/VA on the syllabus, covered in class on 9/30-10/9)

The readings of Section V and VA draw on the literature of organizations and bureaucracy to help understand issues of implementation—and, hence, planning—in developing countries. Much of planning for policy, programs, and projects ignores an understanding of the opportunities and constraints to be learned from this literature with respect to increasing the probability that planning will actually lead to the desired outcomes. Each reading from the literature of organizations is paired with a graphic example from developing countries or donor organizations (except for the Lipsky session). Other examples can also be found in the readings already covered in Sections II-IV—like Teaford and Joshi.

Write a paper saying how the literature-of-organizations' readings help to illuminate what is going on in one or more of the case studies (including, if you wish, those already read for the previous paper). And/or, what a planner might do—based on your understanding gained from the literature-of-organization readings—to reduce some of the problems flagged in the case studies and increase the probability of achieving the desired outcomes. You may also want to bring in examples from your own experience or prior reading and link them to a point in the literature.

As in the prior assignment, you can either write a paragraph or so on each set of readings; or you may draw patterns or points from several or all of them—as long as you are specific and by the end you have referred to all the readings in parentheses after the relevant points you write about. The best way to think about this assignment is to—after you have read all the readings—stand back from them and think what are the three, four, or five points that struck you about this particular set of readings—that made you think, that opened up your eyes in terms of interpreting your own experience or prior readings.

Be sure to avoid saying simply that the one case study illustrates X point from the literature. You should instead spell out the how and why explicitly. Avoid saying only that an article or point in an article was interesting, surprising, or well-written—instead, say why. Be sure to be concrete and specific in your writing, and give examples—avoid making only abstract statements. Pay attention also to the advice on writing given in the first assignment. **By the end of the paper, you should have referred to all of the required readings.**

The assignment should be no longer than 6 double-spaced pages or 1,500 words, whichever is shorter. The papers can also be shorter, and should have at least ***one-inch margins*** for written feedback. The font should be no smaller than New Times Roman 12 and, preferably, larger.

The assignment is due by the ***end of the day on Monday, October 6***. Hard copies of the papers should be delivered to Prof. Tendler's mail slot and to Teaching Assistant's mailbox. For last-minute delivery only, send electronic copies (with a request to print). Students who will be out of town on the due date of the paper should send it electronically. ***No late papers will be accepted, and students should not miss class in order to complete a paper.*** Late-paper grades will be automatically reduced.