



# The Processes of Policy



# Influences on Policy

- When developing policy the president has to consider opinions from a number of different areas
  - The People
  - Intelligence Agencies
  - The Cabinet
  - Executive Agencies
  - Congress
  - Interest Groups
  - The Media
  - Foreign Countries
  - Foreign Opinion
  - Businesses
  - Think Tanks





# The Congressman's Dilemma

- The Trustee Model – Congressmen who believe the people have entrusted them to do what is right and relies on his/her own personal opinion when influencing how they will support issues
- The Delegate Model – Congressmen who people they are there to act as true representatives of the people and listens to their views. When deciding whether or not to support an issue they rely on the opinions of their constituents



# Building Policy: Making Assumptions About The world

- Policy makers tend to be pessimistic about the future when defining problems. They are optimistic about the future when announcing solutions
  - The first step to fixing a problem is acknowledging there is a problem



# Building Policy: Setting the Agenda

- Choosing the problem to be solved is essential in setting the **Policy Agenda**- the list of issues that the federal government pays attention to and wants to solve
  1. A direct result of politics and reflects broad social goals
  2. Can come from a variety of sources; emergencies, interest groups
  3. Can be the subject of ongoing government monitoring; economic
  4. Public's attention span can be very short
  5. How an issue becomes prioritized is much the same as other political decisions, but assisting in formulating the decision are



# Building Policy: Deciding to Act

- Policy makers understand that public pressure for action ebbs and flows over time
  - The public follows an Issue-attention Cycle where each problem suddenly leaps into prominence for a short time and gradually fades from attention
  - Some issues take much longer to address than others





# Building Policy: Deciding What to Do

- Incremental or Comprehensive Policy
  - Incremental Policy- small scale adjustment in an existing program
  - Comprehensive Policy or Punctuating Policy- dramatic change in the federal government's role





# Building Policy: Choosing a Tool

- Government has to decide how to actually address issue
  - Spend money to directly influence
  - Use taxes to encourage economic behavior
  - Provide goods or services directly
  - Provide federal protections from risk
  - Create standards, incentives, or penalties







# Building Policy: Deciding Who Will Deliver The Goods and/or Services

- The government has to decide which institution will be meet the goals of the policy issue
  - Private Businesses
  - Colleges and Universities
  - State and Local Governments
  - Charities
  - A Federal Agency





# Building Policy: Making Rules for Implementation

- Very important to have precise language; no abstraction
  - Can be very detailed
- Fairly straightforward process
- If the rule violates legislative intent, can produce judicial action



# Building Policy: Running the Program

- Ongoing day-to-day running of the program is usually done by a federal department or agency
  - Requires millions of federal employees

