

Selecting the Best Solution for a public policy problem

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Gather Information

- Identify sources of information
- Public policy makers and interest groups
- Telephone calls
- Interviews
- Letters
- Libraries, newspapers, websites

Federalism and Separation of Powers

	Executive	Legislative	Judicial
National Government	President	Congress: Senate and House of Representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Supreme Court • Appellate Courts • Federal District Courts
State Government	Governor	State Legislature: Senate and Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NJ State Supreme Court • NJ Appellate Courts • NJ Superior Courts (by County)
County Government	County Executive President	County Board of Commissioners	No separate courts (see above)
Municipal Government	Mayor	Town council	Municipal courts (limited jurisdiction)
School Board	Superintendent	School Board	Administrative Office of the Courts—Commissioner of Education

Identify which level of government and agency would be responsible

Problem	Air pollution	Gender Pay discrimination	Homeless	Gun control	Immigration
Level of Government	State and Federal	State and Federal	Local, state and federal	State and Federal	Federal
Agency	EPA DEP	State Legislature and Governor Congress and President			

Identify and develop alternative solutions



Alternative Solutions

1. What are the causes and effects of the problem?
2. What alternative policies could solve the problem? What are pros and cons of each of them?
3. Which alternative policy would best solve the problem? Does it address the most important underlying cause of the problem? Does it alleviate some of the effects of the problem?
4. Does government have the responsibility and authority to address this issue/problem?
5. Which level (federalism) and agency of government (separation of powers) might have the responsibility and authority to address this issue/problem?
6. In looking at possible solutions, look at their pros and cons of each (may involve more research).

What makes a Good Policy?

- ✓ Does it have a legitimate purpose?
- ✓ Is it fair?
- ✓ Is it clear?
- ✓ Is it flexible?
- ✓ Can it be enforced?
- ✓ Is it consistent with constitutionally guaranteed individual rights?