

**PBAF/URBDP 560 Urban Affairs, Winter 2009**  
**Proposals due Feb 17 [NOTE DATE CHANGE] or before (electronic drop box)**  
**Presentations Mar 10 and 12**  
**Paper deadline Mar 16 (electronic drop box)**

### **Exercise III, Proposal Analysis Briefing: Focus on Burien**

This exercise allows you to delve into an area of urban policy in depth. In this exercise, you will critically assess a strategy for dealing with a metropolitan problem in Burien and educate your classmates about both the strategy and your appraisal using the basic framework employed in class. You and your classmates will form 5 to 7 groups based on your interests. The audience is a local, regional, or state government official who has an interest in addressing the problem.

As part of your presentation, include a handout that briefly summarizes your main points (one page). Consider the paper to be the background materials for a policy briefing. Therefore, include a one-page executive summary and 8-10 pages of text. Make sure that all citations (especially electronic citations) are professionally, appropriately, and consistently cited. Use the guidelines available at <https://www.lib.washington.edu/research/wri.html>.

Each presentation should take 15 minutes so we have time at the end of class for discussion of all proposals. I'll assign a presentation day to you so that the topics are organized in some way that makes sense and facilitates conversation about the issues raised in each presentation. Think about using the presentation time to get some feedback that you could incorporate into your written product.

Using what you have learned about Burien so far, choose some sort of current intervention or policy proposal to deal with a particular issue in Burien. This can be one effort among many of a particular nonprofit or government agency, a legislative attempt, an intergovernmental negotiation, or some other action. In your paper and presentation, you will critically evaluate the proposal. This can be a continuation of the work you've done in exercises I and II or something completely different. Here are some guidelines:

1. Describe the problem as the actors see it. What choices are the actors making in defining the problem—what is the key dimension upon which they are focusing? How else could one think about the problem? Is the problem definition strategic?
2. Explain the major economic, social, or political trends that influence the problem as the actors see it.
3. Explain previous policy efforts or legislative actions that have attempted to deal with the problem. What has the outcome been? This may require some research.
4. Who are the stakeholders and institutions who are concerned about this problem; why are they concerned; what are their perspectives and conflicts?
5. What is the proposal to address the problem? What challenges do you or others who write on the topic think there would be in implementing it? Again, additional research may be required here.
6. How would you assess the potential success of the proposed solution? For whom would this be a success? For whom would it be a failure?
7. Based on your analysis, do you think the proposal has merit? If so, why? If not, why not? What else might you suggest for exploration?

A 1-paragraph proposal that identifies your group and your topic is due Feb 17 [NOTE DATE CHANGE] through the electronic drop box (linked through the course website). Feel free to use the class listserv to help you identify people who have similar interests as you.