

## Reading #1: Schools of Thought on Policy Implementation

- I. Top-Down Model
  - A. Policy Designers are the major players such as planners and the government
  - B. Their Process is to determine the probability of successful implementation:
    1. Tractability of the problem
    2. Ability of statute to structure implementation
    3. Non-statutory variables affecting implementation
  - C. They are criticized by their:
    1. Use of statutory language as the starting point
    2. They see implementation as an administrative task
    3. Utilizing the statute creators solely as proprietary implementations
- II. Bottom-Up Model
  - A. Policy is made at the local level with citizen target groups (charettes)
  - B. Their Process is to look at the policy from the target population.
    1. Micro Implementation Level – Civic and local grouped organizers
    2. Macro Implementation Level – Government based organizers
  - C. They are criticized in two different ways:
    1. Normative – Is by mere fact of where policy comes from
    2. Methodological – Because the local level is over emphasized
- III. Previous Attempts at combining Top-Down / Bottom-Up
  - A. Elmore's – Forward and Backward Mapping
  - B. Sabatier's – By studying implementation over a period of time
  - C. Goggin's – By communication within the other models
- IV. Ambiguity-Conflict Model (Alternative Model)
  - A. Low Low-Conflict ambiguity (administrative implementation)
  - B. High Conflict-Low ambiguity (political implementation)  
Political power / marshall / infrastructure /
  - C. High Conflict-High ambiguity (symbolic implementation)  
Coalition strength / grass roots / ambiguous and conflictual
  - D. Low Conflict-High ambiguity (experimental implementation)  
No child left behind