

PPA 697

Directed Research

Organization Theory Case Study
“A Citizen’s Jury Assesses the Bloomfield Track”

Instructions:

The attached case study, which is taken from the book *Innovating Democracy* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008) by Robert Goodin, concerns a group of citizens who were asked to determine the fate of a road running through the Daintree rainforest in Australia. It tells of a dramatic change of view among these twelve citizens over the course of four days spent working together on the problem that had been presented to them. From the perspective of organization theory, the interesting aspect of the case is not so much the decision they ultimately made but the process that they went through and the changes in their views that resulted.

My assignment for you is as follows:

1. Choose three organization theorists with whose work you are familiar. Select these theorists based upon your estimation of how much light their work sheds on the case.
2. For each of these theorists, explain how their views allow you to identify the *issues* presented by the case, find or formulate theoretical *perspectives* that allow you to understand those issues, apply those perspectives in order to *evaluate* the case and draw *conclusions* about the events that the case describes.
3. Summarize the significance of this case for organization theory and administrative practice generally.

I will evaluate your response based upon the following criteria (with a possible score of 10):

1. Appropriateness of theorists selected (0-2 points)
2. Use of theorists chosen (0-4 points)
3. Clarity of writing (0-2 points)
4. Insightfulness of conclusion (0-2 points)

I will assign grades for the case essay based upon the following scale:

- 9-10 points = A
- 8 points = B
- 7 points = C
- 6 points = D