

Day 2: The Case Study Approach

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Road map

- Contract
- What are case studies?
- Why/how are they useful?
- Case study project requirements
- Reverse outline

Contract Negotiations



Figure: Image Source: [Link](#)

What Are Case Studies?

An “investigation of ‘real-life phenomenon through detailed contextual analysis of a limited number of events or conditions, and their relationships”” ([Burns 2017](#), 1)

“The essence of a case study is that it tries to illuminate a decision or set of decisions: why they were taken, how they were implemented, and with what results” ([Link](#))

What Are Case Studies?

Two (Three) Types

Explanatory

Seek to explain a phenomena: "... should consist of an accurate description of the facts of a case, considerations of alteranative explanations, and a conclusion based on credible explanations that are congruent with the facts."
(Mills et al. 2010)

Descriptive

A case is used to evaluate an existing descriptive theory, for the purpose of formulating cause-effect relationships

What Are Case Studies?

Two (Three) Types

Exploratory

Investigates phenomena without a guiding theory or specific hypotheses to test. Used to generate theory. A preliminary step for exploring a new field.

What Do Case Studies Contain?

- A Story
- Events
- Characters
- Conflict
- **“illustrate broader, overarching principles or theses”** (Burns 2017, 1)

How/Why Are They Useful?

- Teaching
- Research
- Best Practice

Case Study Project

Teams

- 1 How do you want to do it?

Case Studies in the Environment

<http://cse.ucpress.edu>

The Journal

- Started in 2017
- Audience: students, researchers, faculty, educators, professionals, and policymakers
- Definition of a case study: "...involves close examination of an actual environmental problem or issue, commonly involving a decision, a challenge, or an opportunity faced by individuals, an organization, or a community or society at large."

Article Case Requirements

- Consult the [Author Information](#) carefully
- Use the [Case Study Template](#) provided
- 1,500–3,000 words, excluding abstract, footnotes, references, tables, figures, and supporting information
- Encouraged to include case slides (from presentation)
- Can include other supplementary information, as necessary

Article Case Requirements

Case Structure

- Title page
- Abstract (250 words or less)
- Main Text: Introduction, Case Examination, Conclusion
- Case study questions (discussion)
- Acknowledgments, funding, competing interests
- Supporting information
- References (Vancouver recommended)
- Figure legends
- Figures
- Tables

Peer Review

Review Questions

- Does the title appropriately reflect the subject and framing of the case?
- Does the author present the case study clearly? Is the significance of the case clear?
- Does the manuscript adequately describe the wider context needed for drawing lessons from the case study?
- Are the arguments set forth in the manuscript well supported?
- Please comment on the manuscript's potential utility for teaching environmental science, studies, and policy concepts or for professional environmental practice.
- Please comment on the clarity and usefulness of the Teaching Notes and/or Case Study Questions in providing teaching guidance.

Due Dates

- Reverse Outline - September 2
- Topic Selection - September 14
- First Draft - October 19
- Second Draft - November 18
- Presentation - December 7
- Final Case Study - December 16

My Role

- Feedback
- Support in developing and executing the idea
- Editing and preparing manuscript for submission
- Corresponding author

How to Start

- Start with a major topic of interest
- Search for relatively recent (last five years) events related to that topic
- Some PA ideas:
 - Mariner East 2 or Atlantic Sunrise pipelines
 - Fracking in PA
 - Environmental Rights Amendment
 - Closure of Three Mile Island - connect to politics of nuclear power
 - Regional greenhouse gas initiatives
 - Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards
 - PA Environmental Defense Foundation vs. Commonwealth of PA
- Do not need to restrict yourself to PA

Reverse Outline

Appendix A of the Syllabus

Questions?



Figure: Q&A by [Libby Levi](#), CC BY-SA 2.0