

PS 200, Summer 2019
Assignment #1
Due 7/2 In Class

Please type responses, 12 point, double spaced.

1. [Chapter 1] Find an example of a current or recent tragedy of the commons. Explain what makes this a good example of the tragedy of the commons and what is currently being done in an attempt to solve it. Then, based on what you have learned about collective action problems and institutions, assess how well you think this attempt at a solution will work. Is there anything that could be done differently that might be more effective?
2. [Chapter 2] James Madison wrote the Virginia Plan. When it didn't pass, he contributed heavily to the drafting of the Constitution and its ratification. Describe how American life and politics would be different if the Virginia Plan were in place instead of the U.S. Constitution. Would these differences make life better or worse than being governed under the U.S. Constitution?
3. [Chapter 3] Why does the chapter refer to federal grants as "carrots" and unfunded mandates as "sticks?" What are the major differences between these two methods used by the federal government of inducing cooperation from the states? If you were a state official, explain which type of policy you would prefer Congress to enact. What about if you were a member of Congress?