

# The American Government Placemat

(The Big XII)

## Factors Influencing Public Policy

How do each of the factors listed below interact to shape public policy? You can write an essay on any public policy question if you understand the role of each of these factors and the linkage among factors even if you have minimal knowledge of the specific policy.

### Formal Institutions (Explicit in the Constitution)

#### Constitutional Principles

#### Federalism

\* Presidency - Executive Branch (Enforces Law)

#### Bureaucracy

\* Congress - Legislative Branch (Makes Law)

\* Courts - Judicial Branch (Interprets Law)

\*Consider recruitment, removal, formal powers, informal powers, internal structure, internal rules

### Informal Institutions (Developments outside of the Constitution)

#### Elections

#### Interest Groups

#### Media

#### Political Culture

#### Political Parties

#### Public Opinion

“Idealism without pragmatism is impotent - pragmatism without idealism is meaningless.”

Richard Nixon