

# Case Study Nine

## Report on Field Visit Observation

**Task Description:** Complete a report on a field visit observation

**Weighting:** 30%

**Level:** Undergraduate or early postgraduate

### Outline and Instructions:

This report involves examining how ONE public sector institution, such as a council, state parliament or the court system, is structured and operationalised. Your report should include tables, figures and/or other images that support your analysis.

Your report will be divided into three parts.

#### *Part 1 Background Research*

This section requires you to research the following aspects:

- The functions of the chosen institution/organisation
- The organisational structure
- The way in which services are delivered
- How the organisation is accountable to its constituency or public scrutiny

#### *Part 2 Observation of Relevant Public Meeting*

You will attend and observe one public meeting of your chosen institution (e.g., attend a local council meeting or an open session of state parliament or a court hearing). The following questions will guide your observation:

- How does the meeting operate?
- What role do the public representatives (e.g. councillors, politicians or legal advocates play)?
- What roles do the staff play?
- How effective did you assess the meeting to be and on what basis did you make that assessment?

#### *Part 3 Conclusions*

In this section you draw together your background research and observations to make your final conclusions. What worked well? Are there any differences or challenges you identify? What do you suggest as a strategy to overcome these challenges?

### Marking Criteria:

- Demonstrated ability to analyse, collate and apply research findings to chosen institution
- Quality of critical evaluation of observation of public meeting
- Suitability of strategies proposed to address identified challenges
- Report presentation e.g. use of graphics, content structure, grammar

**Submission:** Course submission area in Blackboard.

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## Workshop Rebuild

### Workshop Participants:

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### Identified Problem Areas:

- This assignment can be easily contracted out to another person (paid or otherwise).
- Information required to do the assessment is readily available. For example, Part 1 can be completed by extracting information from the institution's website. For Part 2, a meeting could be watched on YouTube or outcomes/minutes may be published online and there is no way of verifying that the student themselves attended the public meeting.
- This is a low-level task; it just requires information regurgitation.
- The assignment is completely text-based. So there is nothing in it that requires the student to identify themselves within the assignment (e.g., video, oral presentation).

### Redesign of the Assessment Task:

- Change this to a 3-stage assessment (done over an extended time period).
- Stage 1: Background Research where the student is required to choose a public sector institution, such as a council, state parliament or the court system, and address how it is structured and operationalised. In class, students will do a 1 minute presentation describing the key points of their research and how the data they have collected will inform what you do in Stage 2.
- Stage 2: Observation of Relevant Public Meeting (leave as is in original, however the student needs to provide evidence that they were there, such as photographs, signed statements, testimonials from other attendees).
- Stage 3: Conclusions and demonstration of learning. In class, students will be allocated to a small group of peers who attended a similar institution. Students will discuss their findings, then in class they will present a debate or discussion that addresses aspects of the institution they investigated.
- The new assessment design provides an authentic assessment and enhances the learning value of attending meetings and considering how institutions work. Instead of students being exposed to only one field visit observation, they hear about multiple organisations by discussing other visits with their peers and examining differences and challenges.