

Team project on infrastructure financing from Dr. John Petersen of George Mason University

A research project will start early in the semester. The class will divide itself into 3- and 4-person teams. The task will be to analyze an infrastructure project and its financing or a method of infrastructure financing and projects for which it has been used. A suggestive list of topics will be circulated, but I encourage each team to tackle a topic that it likes. What I want is a critique of a project: the policy objectives, the basic economics of the activity, the benefits versus costs, risks entailed and how they are shared, and the appropriateness of the method of finance used. The team's written report is *not to exceed 25 pages*, double-spaced, including a one-page executive summary at the beginning, charts or graphics, and the footnotes and references. I'd appreciate 12-point type size.

Using the above guidance, the team may select a topic of interest to it in an area of infrastructure finance at the international, federal, state or local level. The report should demonstrate your team's ability to define the problem area, show its significance, assess the relevant factors including alternatives, and make a reasoned argument as to why the proposed or actual financing method was appropriate and if it was successful or not. Please be careful in your citations and references and make sure that this is your own work. The topic is subject to my approval. The grade will be given in common to all members of the team. It is up to you that the work is equitably shared. Upon the formation of teams of three or four persons each, please meet among yourselves and select a topic. Let me know the team composition by September 26. Please discuss your topic and give me your proposed research project on or before October 17th. You may email it to me. A brief written explanation of the research question will be sufficient (a few sentences) and I will get back to you if I have any questions. Note that all research project papers are due on or before November 14th. Instructions will be provided concerning delivery. Starting on November 21, there will be brief (20-minute) presentations by each of the teams. It is up to your team as to how you wish to make the presentation and you will be graded separately on the presentation, again as a group. These presentations will make up about ½ of the class time for the last three sections of the class.