

2. Ethnographic Observation and Meeting Analysis (EPAS competency 7 – Assessment)

Students enrolled in SWRK 181-I, Field Instruction A, will attend a formal meeting related to his/her field placement agency. This meeting should consist of community members, or an organization or political body such as the Board of Supervisors or City Council. The purpose of this assignment is to understand how formal meetings function as venues of decision-making. Use the observations from the questions below to guide the ethnographic observation and meeting analysis.

Conduct an ethnographic observation of an agency or public decision-making meeting. As you observe this formal, decision-making, focus your observation according to the following questions:

- 1) Who are the participants?
- 2) What is the agency agenda?
- 3) What are the main issues being presented?
- 4) Who are the decisions makers and how does the decision-making process function formally at this meeting?
- 5) How do you see power at work in the meeting?
- 6) How was the meeting used to address the needs of vulnerable populations?
- 7) What happened during the meeting in term of the decisions made?