

**RPAD 504—Data, Models, and Decisions I**  
**Take Home Final Question**  
**Spring, 1999**

Read carefully the attached case, “A Policy Maker’s Database: The Status of Children”. This case lays out a number of alternatives for creating a research-oriented database for investing the status of children at a statewide level. In the case assignment (found on page 213) you are asked to take on the role of assistant to Katherine Manning, the governor’s special assistant for Children’s Affairs.

The script that you are asked to draw up should frame the key questions and issues that Manning should focus on for each of the proposals. In addition, the assignment asks you to create “one or several integrative proposals this, in your opinion, meld the best of each of the four agency proposals.

Your final product should be a focused decision memo (perhaps containing one or more charts or lists of questions and issues) of no more than several pages that gets at the key issues quickly.

This written assignment is worth 30% of the final exam grade. It is due in class on Wednesday, May 19. You are to work on this assignment alone. The assignment is open book. Indeed, a good answer will reflect a solid knowledge of the assigned readings and cases in the information management sections of the course.

Good luck!