## Chapter 5

Gen, S., & Wright, A. C. (2013). Policy advocacy organizations: A framework linking theory and practice. *Journal of Policy Practice, 12*(3), 163–193.

1. What is your response to this definition of “policy advocacy”? How does it compare to your understanding?
2. As you think about advocacy experiences you have had, or advocacy campaigns you have observed, what gains can you identify, other than actual policy victory?
3. Apply the logic model described here to your organization. How does your context compare, in inputs, activities, and expected outcomes?

Cronley, C. (2010). Unraveling the social construction of homelessness. *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment, 20*,319–333.

1. Why is problem definition so essential to arrive at the best solution? Can you give an example from your own interests?
2. What can social workers do to influence the framing of social problems in this way? What can you do, from your practice?
3. Using the issues of unemployment or poverty among older adults, define them first as personal “troubles” and then as social “problems.” How do these frames lead to different solutions?

Kannenberg, H. (2013). Feminist policy analysis: Expanding traditional social work methods. *Journal of Teaching in Social Work, 33*, 129–142.

1. This article constrasts different approaches to policy analysis. Where do you see the strengths approach, described in the text, fitting into this characterization?
2. What do you see as the advantages of adopting a feminist perspective for policy analysis?
3. Give an example of an analysis of a particular policy/problem, using the feminist lens.

Burdge, B. J. (2009). Legal discrimination against lesbian, gay, and bisexual employees: A multi-theoretical model to explain an elusive civil rights law. *Journal of Policy Practice, 8*, 4–20.

1. What do you think explains the greater attention that gay marriage has received, in the public and in policy, compared to employment discrimination?
2. The authors intentionally frame this issue as a “missing civil rights law.” How does this serve their purpose, and what does it suggest about the power of language to shape perceptions?
3. What is your response to the articulated advantages and disadvantages of the economic and civil rights frames, respectively, as outlined here?

Nixon, K. I. (2011). Children’s exposure to intimate partner violence in Alberta, Canada: The construction of a policy problem. *Journal of Policy Practice, 10*, 268–287.

1. As described here, what led to exposure to violence becoming recognized as a social problem?
2. Can you give an example of where “unintended consequences” have resulted from flawed problem definition?
3. What about an example of an issue’s emergence as a recognized social problem, similar to what is described here?
4. How might we improve our policy practice by exploring the framing and policymaker intent, as is done here, before beginning our advocacy?