

11.373 Science, Politics, and Environmental Policy  
**Day 8: SCIENCE IN LEGISLATIVE DECISION MAKING**

**I. Legislative Decision Making**

How should congressional decision making work if the world looked like the civics textbooks suggest it does?

What's wrong with this model?

What motivates members of Congress?

What factors influence congressmen's voting decisions?

--What role does the public play? (How/why?)

--What role does the media play? (How/why?)

--What about experts? Information? (How/why?)

**II. Science in Legislators' Environmental Decisions**

What's your impression of how legislators deal with environmental science?

--Where do they get their science?

--How do they interpret the information they are given?

--Why do at least some members of Congress seem to have disdain for science?

\*How do those skeptical members try to diminish the science they disagree with? Are these tactics effective? When and why?