ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION MAKING

What do agencies do in our political system?

What sorts of factors shape agency decisionmaking?

--What is an agency’s mission, and how does it shape agency decisionmaking?

--Who are an agency’s congressional overseers, and how can they constrain agency decisionmaking?

--How does the president influence agency decisionmaking?

--How does judicial oversight shape agency decisionmaking?

How do agencies handle rulemaking and enforcement once an issue becomes controversial, and why?

CASE: THE SPOTTED OWL

Watch video: The God Squad (Bullfrog Films).

Analyze the case in terms of how the Forest Service dealt with the challenge posed by environmentalists’ demands that it protect the spotted owl, consistent with its mandate under the 1976 National Forest Management Act and other laws.