

QUANTITATIVE METHODS IN PUBLIC POLICY

Spring 2005

ASSIGNMENT #1 – January 27, 2005

The following five questions relate to various public policy issues. For each of these questions:

- provide a brief, intuitive (*i.e.* “gut-level”) response, but one that is sufficiently detailed to form a good start to a discussion, and;
 - prepare a list of questions that, if answered, would help you make a more informed response.
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1. What factors are important in a potential immigrant’s decision about coming to the United States?
 2. Are wages for unskilled jobs too low to enable recent immigrants to “get by” financially in the United States?
 3. Are today’s immigrants being assimilated into the U.S. economy and culture as successfully as in past generations?
 4. What is a sensible policy for testing cattle to identify and deal with the threat of Mad-Cow disease?
 5. In what ways should we expect individual citizens (including yourself) to change their lifestyles in order to limit or reduce the emissions of greenhouse gasses that produce global warming?