

Second Group Presentation Assignment

The second group presentation will be much like the first. You will again present, in small groups, a social dilemma (it can be the same one you presented the first time or a different one). You should again describe the dilemma and focus on answering the same six questions from the first presentation.

After presenting the dilemma, you should say whether the dilemma has been solved or not. In the real world are people pursuing their own short-term self interest (an unsolved dilemma) or are they acting in a way that makes everyone better off by ignoring their own short-term self interest (a solved dilemma). Of course, this can come in degrees. You should discuss in some detail the frequency of cheaters and cooperators and if cheating and cooperation can come in degrees.

Once you have discussed to what extent the social dilemma has been solved, you should discuss mechanisms.

If the dilemma has largely been solved, focus on what mechanisms might be maintaining a high level of cooperation. *This part should go beyond mere speculation.* You should find evidence, if possible, for the mechanism you select. Is there evidence for a social norm? Or, for altruistic punishment? Or, for discriminating strategies? Or, for repeated interaction? Or, for whatever mechanism you choose?

If the dilemma has not been solved, focus on what mechanisms could potentially be implemented to bring about cooperation. Think of yourself in the position of a social designer trying to bring about cooperation. Here I want you to specifically suggest what might be done, and how a policymaker might go about making the change. Specifically, I want you to say what *exact* things you would do, and also say why you think this would be effective in eliciting cooperation.

You might have a social dilemma that lies somewhere in the middle, it's solved in some cases and not others or it's solved to a moderate degree. In this case, you're welcome to do either (or both) of the suggestions above.

Questions to answer:

1. What is the social dilemma you are interested in, and is it genuinely a social dilemma?
2. To what degree has it been solved?
3. Mechanisms
 - a) What is the mechanism that solved the dilemma?
 - b) What is a potential mechanism to solve this dilemma?
4. Can this mechanism solve social dilemmas?
5. Is this mechanism plausible
 - a) Is there evidence of the existence of this mechanism?
 - b) Is this mechanism a workable solution?

The presentations themselves will be run just like the presentations last time. Remember the last few weeks of class you will be making a more formal presentation along these same lines, so think of this as a time to try out ideas.

Also, remember I will be requiring you to provide a short bibliography for your final presentation, so keep track of any materials you use (books, papers, personal interview, etc.)