might proclaim this feature of UI as either good or bad, depending on its aggregate effects.

4.3. Read the text and think of the words which best fit into each gap. Use only one word for each gap.

Conclusion

The question of whether a public 1)_____ works – whether it is effective – is one of the most fundamental and 2)_____ in public policy analysis. As this chapter has tried to 3)_____, however, the answer is far from 4)_____ in most cases. To find out whether a policy 5)_____, one must first determine what it is trying to do: one must 6)_____ the problem and the goal. What a policy tries to achieve is in part a function of the implementation process. The first part of this chapter showed that even in 7)_____ of clear goals and consistent policy statements, implementation is likely to be 8)_____. Clear and consistent statement about problem definition and goals are 9)_____ rare in most policy statements, and there are several subtle distinctions that need to be kept in mind in 10)_____ the issue. But judging policy success also depends on the kind of impact being examined. 11)_____ impact, 12)_____ impact, 13)_____ impact, and 14)_____ impact may be completely incommensurate.

It is not surprising, in light of these distinctions, that some of the most heated and 15)_____ policy debates succeed only in participants talking past one another. Social workers, for example, because they are routinely exposed to the 16)_____ tragedies of poverty, disability, and 17)_____, tend to focus on the direct impact of 18)_____ policy. They frequently judge these policies inadequate or 19)_____, but will resist arguments that these policies should be conceived within a government's fiscal framework. Many economists find that sort of argument and context entirely 20)_____, however, and so their policy recommendations are often greatly at odds with other experts. Arguments between trade unions and business associations often have the same character: the 21)_____ focus more on the direct and social impact of policies, while business 22)_____ train their criticisms on macroeconomic effects.

Does judgment of the success or 23)_____ of 24)_____ and impact depend entirely on 25)_____ and power? This book has argued that interests and 26)_____ act as important structural features of the policy 27)_____, but that policy analysis itself and problem 28)_____ in particular depend on ideas and 29)_____. This is itself a matter of some 30)_____.

4.4. Study the information about the Center for Responsive Politics' Web site given below. Then visit the site as a US citizen of a particular state and see if you can answer the questions asked in the text. What do you think of the impact of money on policymaking? What do you think of the Web site?

Money in Politics

No other aspect of politics may be as well documented as the role of money. The Center for Responsive Politics allows you as a citizen to examine the data to see how money is donated and spent to influence the policymaking process. The center's Web site, www.opensecrets.org, lists the amounts of money donated to campaigns, dollars spent on lobbying activity, and soft money contributions. This kind of information can give voters a great deal of insight into the politics of policymaking. The center believes that turning the 'sunshine' on these activities will get policymakers thinking about how they go about making decisions and just who is supplying not only the money but also the information they use to make them.

The Web site also provides research and reports on political issues, and you can make your own assessments of the information. For example, during 2001 and 2002, lawyers and law firms contributed more than $9.9 million to candidates through their political action committees (PACs). Go to the site and find your member of Congress or a senator and see how much he or she received and spent during the last election. What percentage of the money came from PACs? Which corporate, union, or other PACs gave the money? Look at the donations for your entire state. The data presented here allow citizens to see how much money different organizations spend to lobby public officials, but interpreting the information is never easy. What impact do you think such contributions have on policymaking? Do they merely buy 'access', or does such money influence how policymakers decide where they stand on issues?