

Reading Tips and Study Questions: New Orleans Panel and Plan—September 17th

Required reading

1. **Seymour Mandelbaum**, "Reading Plans," *Journal of Planning Education and Research* 56(3):350-357 (1990).
2. **UNOP**: "Table of Contents" and "Section 1 – Introduction" in City of New Orleans, *Unified New Orleans Plan: Citywide Strategic Recovery and Rebuilding Plan* (April 2007 version).
3. **Panelist bio-sketches** (check course website for updates).

Tips and questions

This session will consist of a discussion with and among panelists with insider knowledge (and key roles) in New Orleans recover planning.

Questions for class prep and discussion sections:

1. Why, according to **Mandelbaum**, do members of the public—and perhaps professional planners as well—need advice on "reading plans"? As for the *modes* of reading a plan, what are the "difficult choices" he identifies as part of the plan's "policy claim"? Why does he consider some elements ambiguous and problematic when reading the "design opportunity"? In the third and final mode, what does it add to the reader's understanding, according to Mandelbaum, to read a plan as a "narrative"?
2. Reading the Table of Contents of **UNOP**, what seems significant to you, if anything, about the topics and how they are presented? For example, are there explicit or implicit claims in them? What's included in the contents and what's missing, if anything, from your perspective? Is the sequence of the presentation notable in any way?
3. Considering now the **UNOP** Introduction, are there clear "policy claims" and "design opportunities"? Is there a storyline or narrative here as well, and if so, what is it?