

Individual Assignment 4: Analysis of Your Choice

Rural Planning and Economic Development | PLAC 5500-001 / LPPP 5559-001 | Fall 2026

Assignment brief and working template

DUE: November 18, 2026, at the start of class

COURSE WEIGHT: 3%

Purpose

Choose one approved method that adds useful evidence to the partner-community project. Select the method that fits the client decision, available evidence, time, and your role. Confirm the tailored scope with the instructor before production.

The class will provide

- Six complete choice modules, examples, and source/testing guidance.
- Data, tool, or model support as relevant.
- Comparison templates, work time, and rubric.

What to submit

- ☐ Accessible memo, PDF, or equivalent individual product using one approved option.
- ☐ Method-selection rationale naming the client decision, evidence gap, user, scope, and why this method fits.
- ☐ Comparable units and common criteria; context map or visual where useful.
- ☐ Source and assumptions ledger distinguishing source evidence, observation, inference, and unknowns.
- ☐ Comparison or analysis; at least one plausible alternative explanation or response; one proportionate recommendation; and a next action with lead, needed input, early measure, and limitation.
- ☐ Editable comparison table, tool, or source file where relevant.

Recommended workflow

1. Start with the project decision and evidence gap.
2. Compare the approved methods by relevance, data, time, uncertainty, and usefulness; confirm the selected scope.
3. Define comparable cases, places, sites, segments, sectors, users, or scenarios.
4. Gather dated, traceable evidence without inventing missing client information.
5. Compare patterns, dependencies, tradeoffs, barriers, and an alternative explanation or response.
6. Recommend one practical next step and state what would change the recommendation.

Working pages

Method selection: Choose: downtown vacancy/opportunity; community health/access; industry/workforce; multimodal mobility; street/network comparative analysis; or a modest coded/community-use tool. Explain fit.

Question, user, and scope: What decision will this help, for whom, across which bounded geography or cases?

Common criteria: List the same criteria and evidence that will be used across all cases or options.

Analysis and alternative: Record the pattern, comparison, dependencies, barriers, uncertainty, and at least one plausible alternative explanation or response.

Recommendation and implementation: Name one proportionate recommendation, lead, first action, needed input, early measure, limitation, and condition that could change it.

Submission self-check

- ☐ The method is approved and directly improves a real client decision.
- ☐ The scope can be completed individually by the deadline.
- ☐ Cases and criteria are genuinely comparable.

- ☐ Evidence, observation, inference, assumption, and unknown are traceable.
- ☐ The recommendation is proportionate and implementable.
- ☐ The product is accessible and useful to the team or client.

AI, collaboration, and individual responsibility

You may use the supplied data, model, and tools and discuss methods with classmates. Shared inputs and the same correct calculation are not duplicate completed assignments. Your observations, analytical decisions, interpretation, and presentation must be your own. Disclose material AI assistance, verify the work, and be ready to explain every method and choice. Do not place restricted client or personal data in public AI tools.

Honor pledge and authorship

Write and sign the exact pledge below for individual assignments and papers.

"I pledge that I have neither given nor received help on this examination (quiz, assignment, etc.)."

Student	
Signature	
Date	