Discussion Sheet #2: Settings---The Environment of Local Politics

What? Please read and respond to the second reading in PRIMIS, The Setting of State and Local Government
How? Use the form and space below (5 points)
When? Due for class, Friday, April 11.

Setting:

1. Policy-making in the 50 states is affected by a variety of factors including: economic characteristics; the physical setting; immigration; political culture; sectionalism; and public opinion. Briefly explain how physical setting, immigration, sectionalism and public opinion affect policy-making, giving evidence to support your explanation.

2. What is political culture?

Why are there different political cultures in the US?

What is the significance of political culture? Use examples to illustrate.

Which of the three political cultures do you think best describes Oregon? Why?
3. Use State and County QuickFacts @ http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/ to check on some of the characteristic settings of state and local politics. Pick at least three quickfacts that you think are vital in shaping the political and economic culture of Oregon. Compare Oregon to the US as a whole and to at least two other states (use a state you have migrated from if applicable).

Summarize your impressions and conclusions.

Compare Linn and Benton Counties to discern significant differences in political and economic culture. Summarize your impressions and conclusions.

Compare the County in which you reside to Multnomah and Wallowa and Josephine. Summarize your impressions and conclusions.