

Obfuscation Chart

The “Baffle-Gab Thesaurus” below can be used to create authentic bureaucratic jargon. As any self-respecting bureaucrat knows, it is bad form to use a single, simple-understandable word, or phrase, when obfuscating ones are more confusing.

Where can the Washington phrase maker go if he/she finds it difficult to think up an applicable phrase so no one can challenge an easy-to-comprehend title? Well, the combination of words shown in the chart below can be used to create common government phrases. It consists of a three-column list of 30 over-used but appropriately portentous words.

Whenever a government official needs an opaque phrase, he/she simply comes up with a three-digit number and selects the corresponding “buzz words” from the three columns. For example, 233 produces “Total Monitored Capability” which has the ring of absolute authority and means absolutely nothing. Perfect for government jargon, don’t you agree?

	A	B	C
1	Integrated	Management	Options
2	Total	Organizational	Flexibility
3	Systematized	Monitored	Capability
4	Parallel	Reciprocal	Mobility
5	Functional	Digital	Programming
6	Responsive	Logistical	Concept
7	Optional	Transitional	Time-Phase
8	Synchronized	Incremental	Projection
9	Compatible	Third-Generation	Hardware
10	Balanced	Policy	Contingency

This “Baffle-Gab Guide” was popularized in Washington, D.C. by Philip Broughton, a U.S. Public Health Service official, who circulated it among civil servants and businessmen circa 1968.

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