Thank you for starting the class with an example of public (songs) and private goods (drinks) that was easy to understand. All the demand curves and four quadrant box drawings in the world won't be as easy to retrieve from my memory as that simple example.

I also appreciated that you encouraged John to share his insights from his economics courses as an undergraduate. The term "collectively consumed" is easier to grasp than pure public good. I can imagine there are goods provided by private enterprises (both for profit and not for profit) that might also be collectively consumed, and this term lends itself to clarity much more easily than "pure public good." As a construct, I'm still not sure what benefit there is from trying to use the term "public" in this way, but I'll leave it to economists to struggle with the gap between their lexicon and the language of the common person.

Overall, I'm glad you avoided the complexities of last week's lecture. Demand curves are not something I imagine we'd ever present to a city council or a community group. If you were to use that as your standard, perhaps you would avoid drawing these so often to explain a concept that seems simple enough to grasp: people change their behavior in response to changes in taxation. The axiom we conclude from this concept is that a tax that minimizes behavior change is a better tax.

This week's lecture included more time discussing taxes and less time discussing economics. That shift was a welcome sign. I hope we will continue to discuss more concrete examples and learn more about the tools of public finance used by administrators rather than economists.

An interesting side note you might enjoy is that in Professor LeRoux's class later in the week, we were asked who benefits from empowerment zones. I immediately knew that the answer was not businesses. She wasn't trying to make that point, but I knew the only right answer had to acknowledge that it could only be people who benefit from an empowerment zone. Which people is another question, of course.