

# The Policy Cycle

Political Science

The stages from problem to evaluation, and why the model is tidier than reality.

*The stages.*

1

## Agenda setting

A problem gains attention and becomes a candidate for action.

2

## Formulation

Options are developed and assessed.

3

## Decision

One option is adopted, often modified politically.

4

## Implementation

Delivered through agencies, often changing again.

5

## Evaluation

Effects assessed against the stated objectives.

Educational reference. In practice solutions often precede problems: existing proposals attach to whatever crisis arrives.