

Public Policy Formulation & Implementation

Table 1.1

Defining “Public Policy”

Definition	Author
“The term <i>public policy</i> always refers to the actions of government and the intentions that determine those actions.”	Clarke E. Cochran et al. ^a
“Public policy is the outcome of the struggle in government over who gets what.”	Clarke E. Cochran et al.
“Whatever governments choose to do or not to do.”	Thomas Dye ^b
“Public policy consists of political decisions for implementing programs to achieve societal goals.”	Charles L. Cochran and Eloise F. Malone ^c
“Stated most simply, public policy is the sum of government activities, whether acting directly or through agents, as it has an influence on the life of citizens.”	B.Guy Peters ^d

^a Clarke E. Cochran et al., *American Public Policy: An Introduction*. 6th ed. (New York: St. Martin’s Press, 1999).

^b Thomas R. Dye, *Understanding Public Policy*. 7th ed. (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1992).

^c Charles L. Cochran and Eloise F. Malone, *Public Policy: Perspectives and Choices* (New York: McGraw Hill, 1995).

^d B. Guy Peters, *American Public Policy: Promise and Performance* (Chappaqua, NY: Chatham House/Seven Rivers, 1999).

Policy Defined

- Policy is made in response to some sort of problem that requires attention.
- Policy is made on the “public’s” behalf.
- Policy is oriented toward a goal or desired state, such as the solution of a problem.
- Policy is ultimately made by governments, even if the ideas come from outside government or through the interaction of government and non-governmental actors.
- Policy is interpreted and implemented by public and private actors who have different interpretations of problems, solutions, and their own motivations.
- Policy is what the government chooses to do or *not* to do.

In short public policy making is about **problem** solving

Public Policy

- While reaching a consensus on one *definition* of public policy has proved impossible, all the variants of the definition suggest that public policy making is *public*—it affects a greater variety of people and interests than do private decisions.
- This is why the policies made by government are sometimes so controversial, frustrating, and at the same time very important.
- But because the public is the source of political authority—that is, the authority to act on the public's behalf—it is clear that government is at the center of efforts to make public policy.
- Policies take many different forms. A policy might be a law, or a regulation, or the set of all the laws and regulations that govern a particular issue, area or problem

3 Types of Policies by Theodore Lowi

- **Distributive Policies**

- Distributive policies involve the granting of some sort of benefit to a particular interest group or other well-defined, at times relatively small group of beneficiaries –subsidies

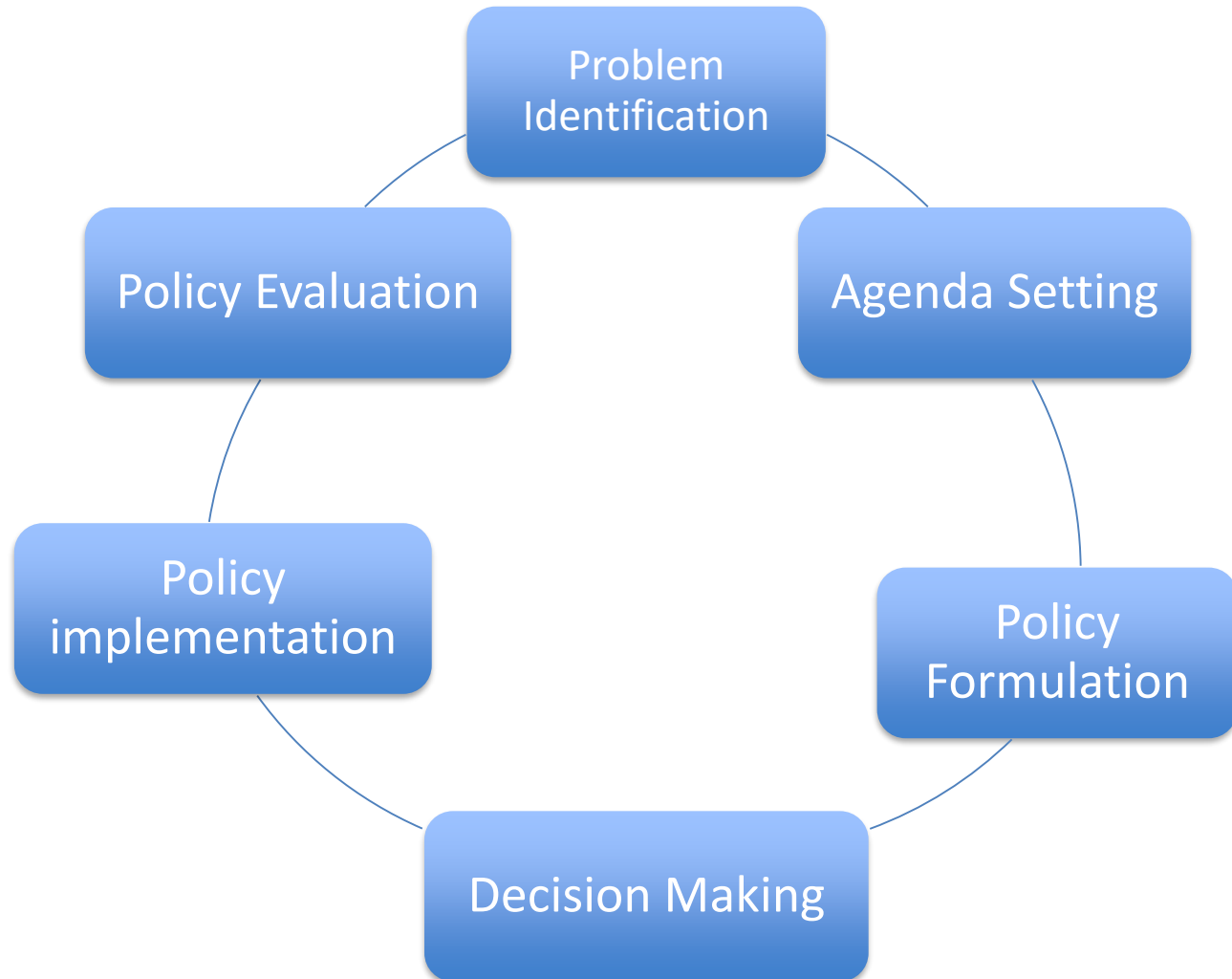
- **Re-Distributive Policies**

- *Redistributive policy* is characterized by actions intended to manipulate the allocation of wealth, property, personal or civil rights, or some other valued item among social classes or racial groups like welfare, civil rights for racial or social minorities, aid to poor cities or schools

- **Regulatory Policies**

- Regulatory policies are, in general terms, policies that are intended to govern the conduct of business, to regulate trades or professions

Stages of Public Policy Process



Policy Analysis

- Is defined as Systematic comparison and evaluation of alternatives available to public actors for solving social problems
- Policy Analysis is not a formula for solving public problems, but it can bring valuable information to both policy makers and public

Policy Analysis

- It is the cost benefit analysis of the policy alternatives, which attempts to estimate dollar values for all benefits and costs of policy solutions, which have no explicit market value
- For example, the benefits of a new section of highway include time saving for travelers as well as possible reduction in energy use and air pollution due to less congestion
- Cost include construction spending, the loss of the benefits of alternative projects, added noise, increased danger from higher speeds and increase in road kill

Thank You