

Deliberative Dialogue

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Kettering Foundation Project Goals

- ▶ Deliver a deliberative issue guide on the future of rural communities to the Kettering Foundation and other partners.
- ▶ Engage national and regional partners in helping to frame the issue guide, with particular emphasis on connecting with Extension partners.
- ▶ Collect public concerns on the topic using cultural engagement processes along with traditional information gathering processes.
- ▶ Invite Extension partners, Centers for Public Life and others to hold deliberations in rural communities using the framed issue guide.
- ▶ Deliver a report to Kettering Foundation and other partners documenting successes, challenges, and outcomes of the framing process. Share findings with partners and rural development networks.

Kettering Foundation

- A nonprofit operating foundation rooted in the American tradition of cooperative research.
- Primary research question: what does it take to make democracy work as it should?
- Research is conducted from the perspective of citizens and focuses on what people can do collectively to address problems affecting their lives, their communities, and their nation.

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Public Deliberation

Deliberation is a basic tenet of healthy democratic practice predicated on the idea that when citizens are closely involved in making decisions that affect them, it strengthens representation, transparency, and accountability, and can lead to citizen action and results.



Public Deliberation

A way of talking, thinking and acting together—
different from dialogue or debate



Deliberation is different . . .

Debate	Dialogue	Deliberation
Compete	Exchange	Weigh
Argue	Discuss	Choose
Promote Opinion	Build Relationships	Make Choices Together
Seek Majority	Seek Understanding	Seek Overlap
Persuade/Dig in	Reach Across	Common Ground
Tight Structure	Loose Structure	Flexible Structure
Express	Listen	Learn
Invest in Belief	Share Belief	Suspend Belief
Make Assumptions	Ignore Assumptions	Examine Assumptions
Defend Thinking	Share Thinking	Improve Thinking
Win/Lose	No Decision	Civic Agency

Wicked Problems

- Complex, interdependent issues
- Lack a clear problem definition
- Conflicting values and perspectives
- Multiple stakeholders
- No right/wrong, only better/worse
- Key to success is collaboration and engagement



Wicked Problems: Three part test

- ☐ Is the problem systemic?
- ☐ Does the problem require an ongoing response?
- ☐ Does the problem require multilateral action?



Complex public issues

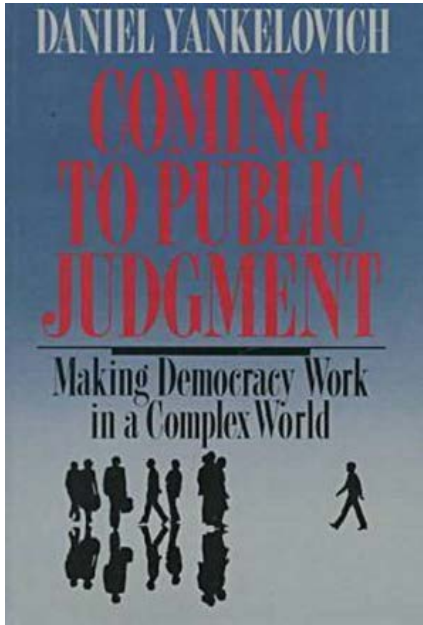
- Land & water use
- Environmental issues
- Education issues
- Social climate & diversity
- Energy issues
- Public safety
- Criminal justice system
- Economic development
- Alcohol and tobacco
- Health care

Good information is not enough

An informed public is deeply grounded in our political tradition and essential for our democracy to work. . . . Yet scientists, like leaders in other fields, have enormous difficulty engaging the public on critical issues . . . that can only be solved when good science, wise public policy and thoughtful public judgment all come together.

Daniel Yankelovich





Coming to public judgment

A three-stage process that obliges people to confront and overcome their own wishful thinking, engage and connect their deepest emotions and values to factual information, and create cognitive resolution through reasoned public judgment.

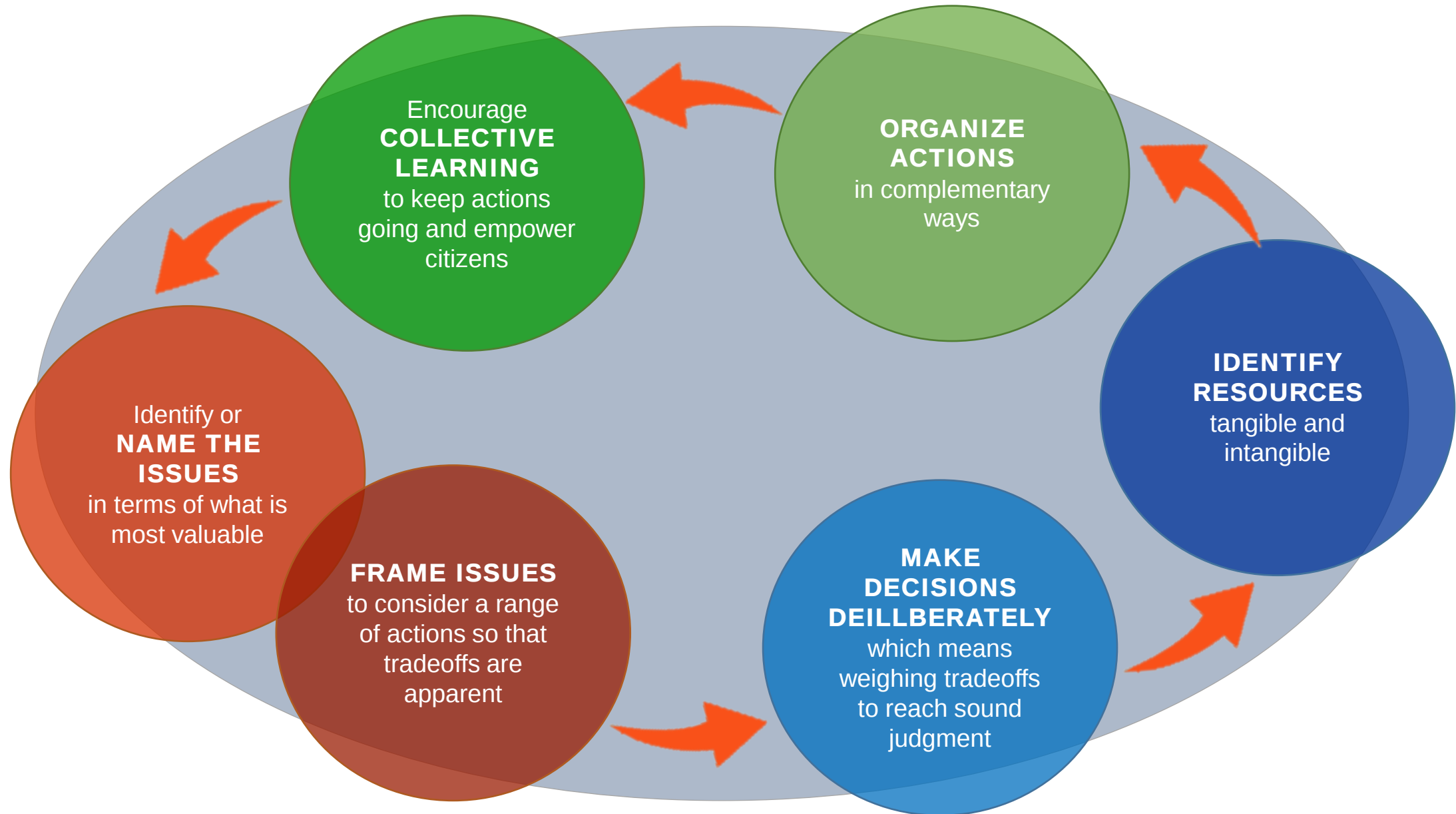
1. Consciousness-raising

2. Choice Work

3. Resolution

The arc of deliberative work

Adapted from *What Does the Kettering foundation Do? Research*, accessed online Feb. 3, 2015 at <http://kettering.org/wp-content/uploads/What-Does-KF-Do-2014.pdf>



Outcomes of deliberative forums

- o Advances richer forms of public participation
- o Engages citizens in meaningful dialogue on complex problems
- o Allows input on public issues that citizens care about
- o Collects information about where the public stands
- o Builds public awareness of tradeoffs and challenges
- o Augments participants' levels of knowledge about public issues
- o Cultivates trust and productive relationships among citizens
- o Fosters respect for diverse views
- o Increases levels of civic engagement and participation
- o Empowers people and builds civic capacity