

Materials for teachers 6.1

Illustration of the policy cycle model – how can we reduce the number of car accidents?

| Concepts and key questions | Notes |
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| 0. Topic What is the issue? | How can we reduce the number of car accidents? |
| 1. Problem Who sets the agenda? What is the problem? Do all protagonists agree in their definition of the problem? | Minister of the Interior: more accidents. Young drivers – inexperienced, reckless. Males of all ages – too much alcohol. Motorists' club: more cars on the road; taxes not used for improving road network. Environmentalists: CO ₂ -emissions rising, oil supplies running out and becoming more expensive – support alternatives to car transport. |
| 2. Debate Who is involved? What are the protagonists' interests and values? | Everyone agrees on reducing car accidents. But there are different interests and goals involved in the debate: Minister wants to put pressure on reckless drivers. Motorists want better conditions for car drivers. Environmentalists are worried about global warming. |
| 3. Decision What is the outcome? Have certain interests been given priority – or is it a compromise decision? | The government decides to introduce two bills: Heavier fines for speeding, lower alcohol limits; more traffic controls. Four-lane highways are to be standard within five years. |
| 4. Implementation How is the decision implemented? Who is involved or responsible? Are there problems or conflicts? | More traffic controls, particularly in the evenings and at weekends. Highway extension and improvement scheme is scheduled, first roads under construction. |
| 5. Opinions Which individuals, protagonists, groups, etc. support or criticise the outcome? What are their values, ideologies and interests? | Motorists welcome construction scheme, question controls (more fines – more funds?) Environmentalists deeply disappointed. Demonstrations in the capital. Discussion: found a new green party? |
| 6. Reactions How do they react? (Individually, collectively) What are their means of exercising power and pressure? | Environmentalists hold demonstrations in the capital. Discussion: found a new green party? Truck drivers complain of delays on highways. Minister reports 15% drop in accident figures within 12 months – maintains that success proves his policy right. |

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| <p>7. New problem <i>or Policy termination</i></p> <p>Does a new debate begin on setting the political agenda?</p> <p>Is it the same problem or a new one that is under discussion?</p> <p><i>Or</i> has the decision led to a solution that ends the process?</p> | <p>Minister: no new steps need to be taken. Observe development, discuss situation in 12 months.</p> <p>Environmentalists: alarming rise in CO₂ emissions.</p> <p>Complaints by beer brewers: sales drop by 10%. Jobs at stake.</p> <p>Industry demands speeding up of road construction scheme.</p> <p>...</p> |
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