Figure 1.1 The public policy cycle (By permission of Jan Ehrler, inffab, Switzerland).

To decision either to improve and continue the policy or to terminate it. Communication necessary to each phase is not shown. Instead, a separate category, documentation, appears early in this abstract view as an indicator of written (and spoken) necessary communication.

Like the list of policy actions in the preface to this book, Figure 1.1 simplifies reality. This cyclic view portrays policy making as progressing (lines and arrows) predictably through distinct phases (boxes). While it’s too linear, a cyclic view nonetheless is helpful, if only because it encourages optimism. When you are immersed in grinding details or frustrating politics of policy work and it feels as if you are getting nowhere, it’s refreshing to remember that you are engaging a process, however messy, with short-term and long-term goals.

Summary and Preview
Public policy making has three basic components: policy, and the process. A problem is a perceived insufficiency of its environment. A policy is a standing decision. The policy process is problem solving in a pluralistic policy framework.

Next, chapter 2 explains how communication during the process and offers a disciplined approach to speaking.

Reference

Further Reading