

Discussion questions on Webber & Rittel (Wicked Problems)

1. What does it mean to be a professional if there is no scientific basis for justifying the goals or actions that you pursue?
2. What makes a planning problem a wicked problem?
3. Do you agree with the then supposed attributes of wicked problems?
 - no definitive formulation
 - no stopping rule
 - solutions are not true or false, but good or bad
 - every solution is one shot (no learning possible)
 - no full set of potential solutions
 - every wicked problem is unique
 - every problem a symptom of another problem (marginal improvement does not guarantee overall improvement)
 - the choice of explanation determines the nature of the resolution
 - planners have no right to be wrong
4. "Socetal processes have the character of zero-sum games". Do you agree?