

Discussion questions on Davidoff

1. Davidoff argues that appropriate planning action can not be prescribed from a position of value neutrality, for prescriptions are based on desired objectives. Do you agree?
2. The planner should be an advocate for what he deems proper. Do you agree?
3. A just decision is the product of an adversarial exchange. Do you agree?
4. The advocacy of alternative plans by interest groups outside of government would stimulate city planning in a number of ways. Do you agree?
5. Davidoff, a lawyer, relies on a legal model of advocacy. Can it work in the arena of public policy-making? Why?
6. In passing, there is a reference to the Howard-Walker debate on the need for an independent planning commission. Do you agree?
7. What role does physical planning play within the work of city planners in general?
8. The primary purpose of city planning is the coordination of many separate functions. That's what Davidoff says. Do you agree?