



# Connecting Research to Policy at the Nexus of Health and Education

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## The Science & Technology Policy Fellowship

“Outstanding scientists and engineers learn first-hand about federal policymaking while using their knowledge and skills to address today’s most pressing societal challenges.”

# WHAT DID I DO?



## HELPED CRAFT POLICY

Learned how to read, understand and communicate policy.

Learned and participated in the legislative process.

Acquired a better appreciation of policy-making challenges.



## DROPPED A BILL

Aim Higher Act (H.R.6543)  
“designed to give every student the opportunity to earn a debt-free degree or credential that leads to a rewarding career.”



## GREW INTO NETWORKS

Worked with an inspiring and tireless team.  
Networked and conversed with so many different people.  
Became a fellow AAAS fellow.



## LIVED IN DC

Who gets to go the African American museum when no one else is there?  
Who gets to see your child gawking in awe as he shakes Barack Obama’s hand?



# LESSONS LEARNED

## LESSON 1



Your audience is very often a 20-something year-old with two cell phones and a time limit

An initial introduction: a “day on the Hill” with an AERA delegation.

A new vantage point emerges from the inside.

You are boring and irrelevant if you don't know what's on the docket

- Things happen fast--it might be over by tomorrow.
- Information travels within networks.
- Note carefully how stakeholders frame and discuss research.



## LESSON 2

# LESSONS LEARNED

## LESSON 3



The best communications are  
clear and concise

No PowerPoint presentations EVER  
(unless they are Hill briefings by useless  
PhDs)!

The “ask” and one-page handout.

The power of ‘messaging’

If you on the minority side,  
you legislate for the future,  
NOT for the present

Committees adopt a long view.

You have to consider conditions that  
may not presently exist.



## LESSON 4

# LESSONS LEARNED

## LESSON 5



### Our voices as research scientists are really, really important

- We should all learn how to use our voice and use it well—it could change the course of people's lives.
- If you decide not to, someone else will, and you can't control what they put forward.

# Connecting research to policy rests on “evidence”

Foundations for evidence-based policymaking (Act of 2019)

Timing is everything; there exists a misalignment in the generation of evidence

Accepting that researchers as “experts” and our work as “evidence” will be cherry-picked

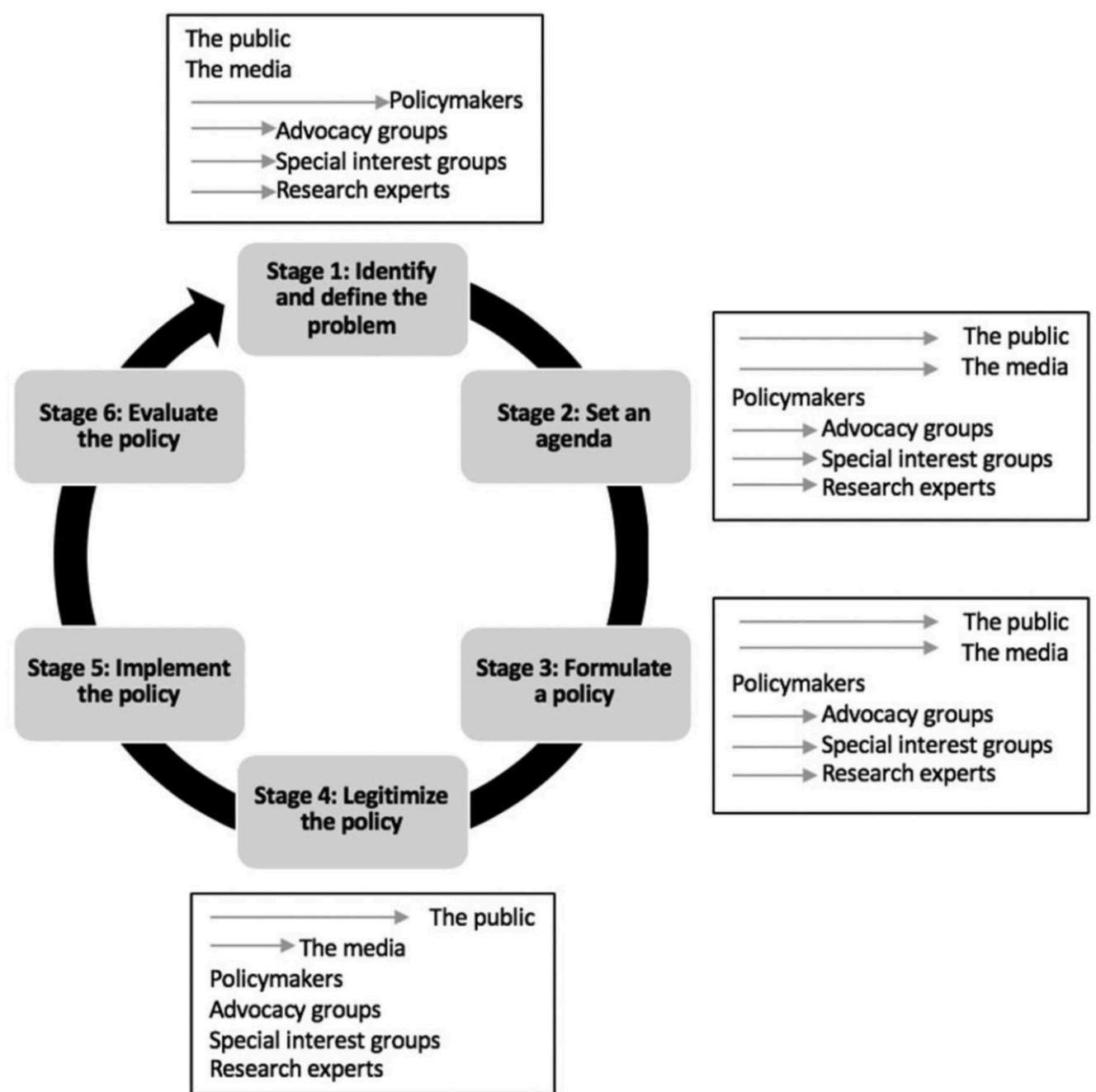
...in policymaking,  
research will rarely be  
the driving force, but it is  
often the fuel





# THE OPPORTUNITY

# THE PROCESS MODEL OF POLICY-MAKING



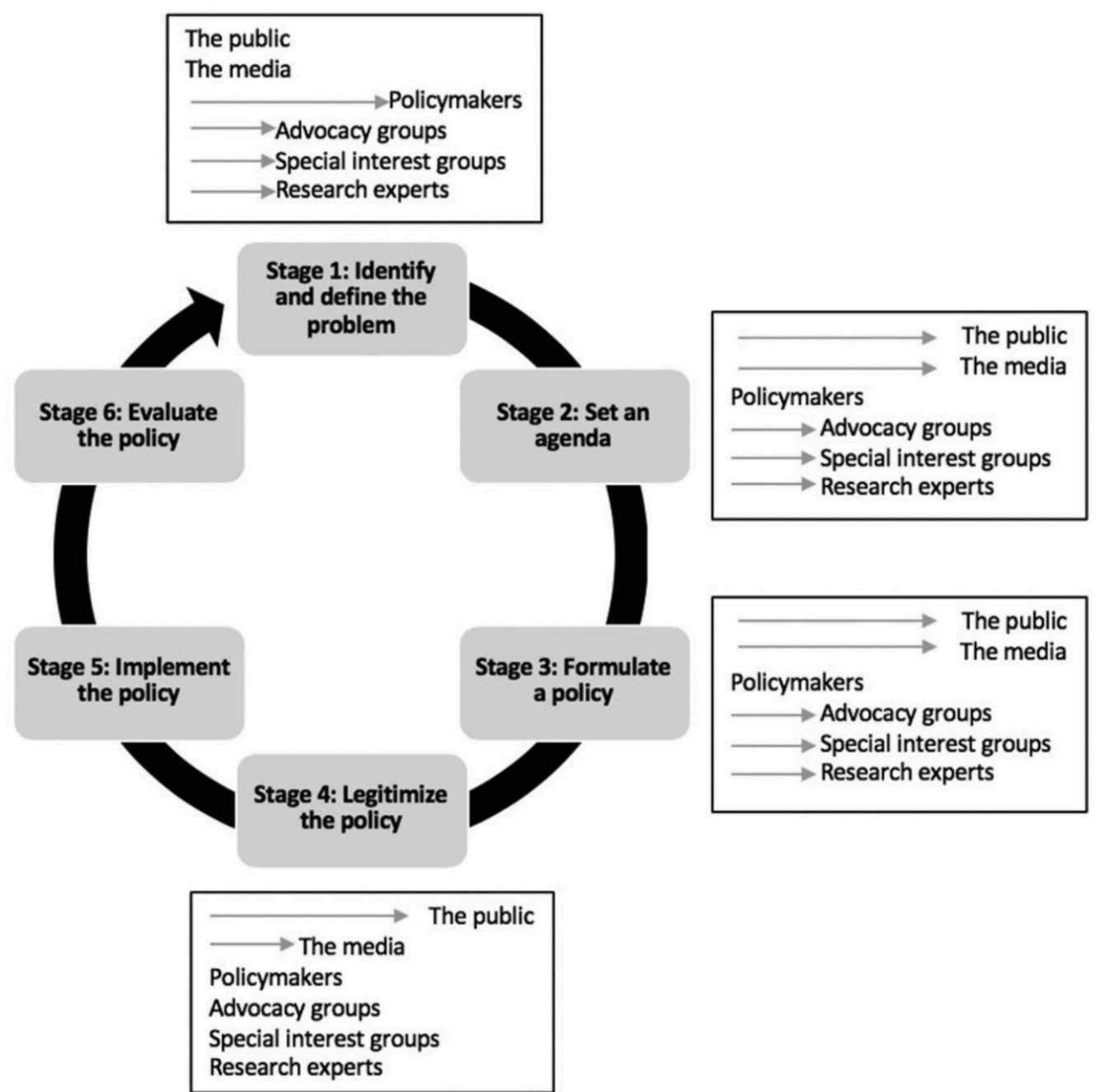
The shorter the arrow, the more proximal the stakeholder and more they drive the process

# STAGE 1

Enter as a constituent

Serve as a knowledge broker

“Show and Tell” your work



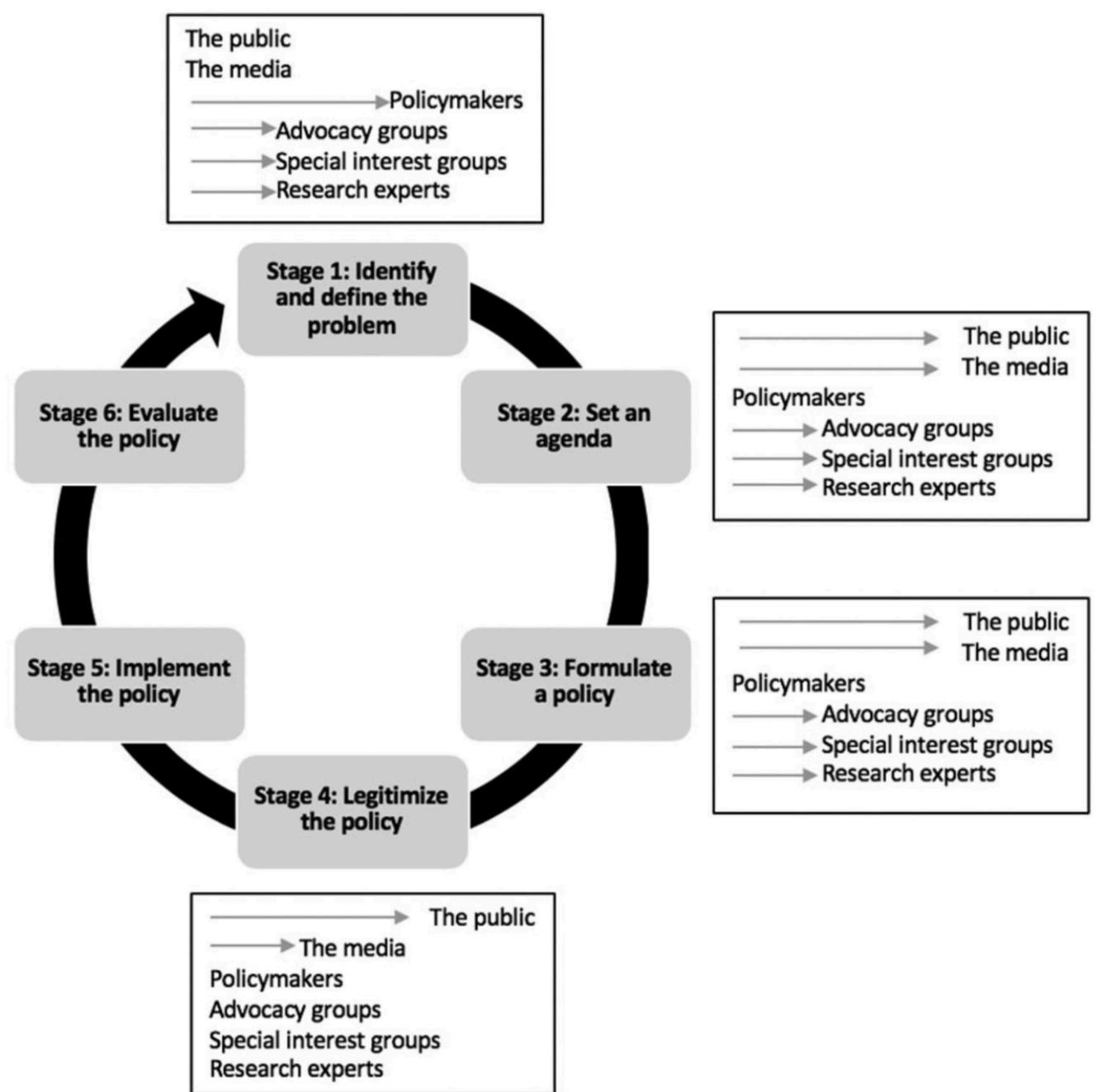
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# STAGE 2

Awareness of political landscape is key

Bring evidence to support or bolster a preexisting set of beliefs

Select the right venue for engagement



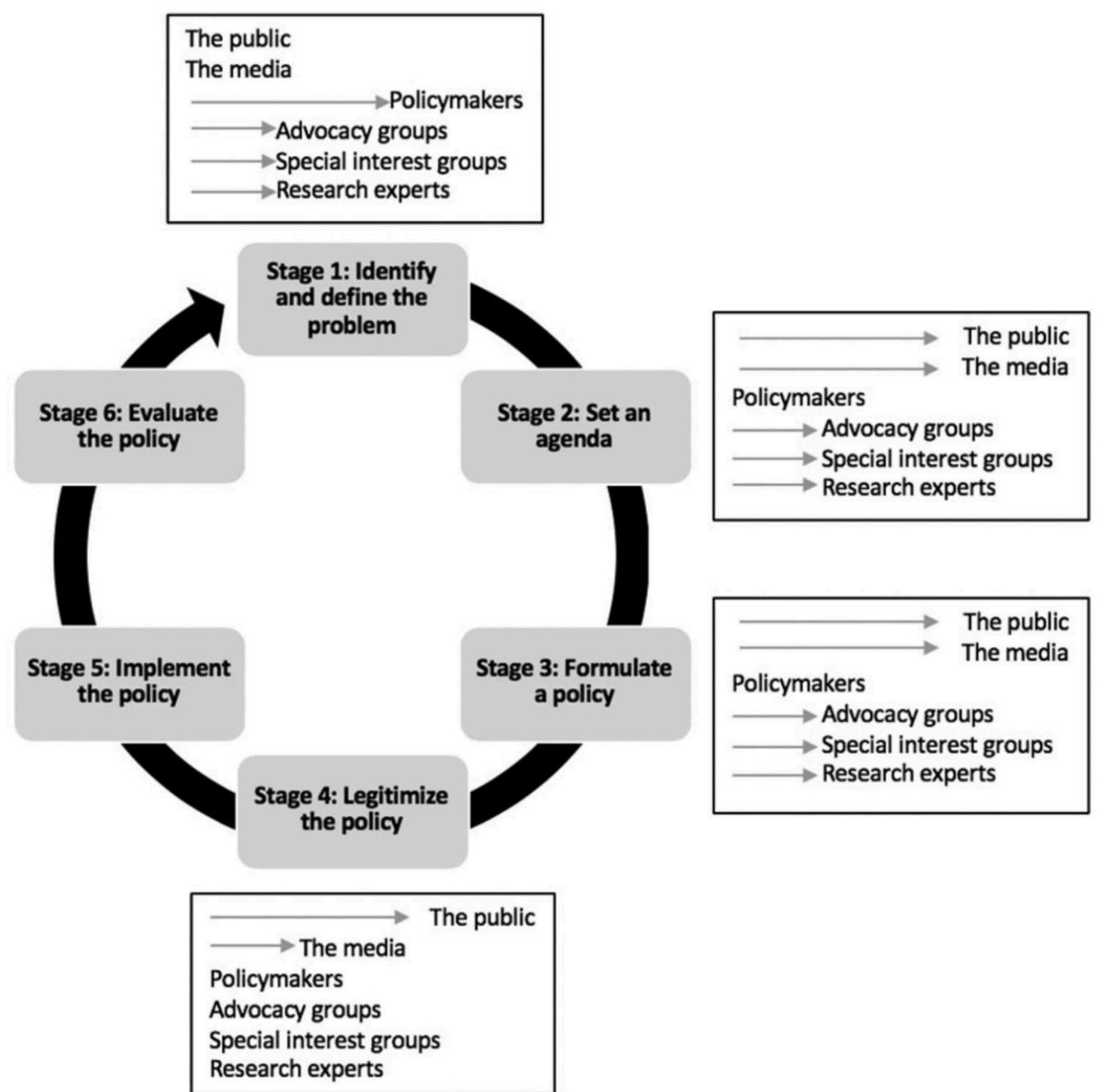
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# STAGE 3

Step to the table and lean in

Attend hearings/  
testify/write for the public

Stay aware and ready



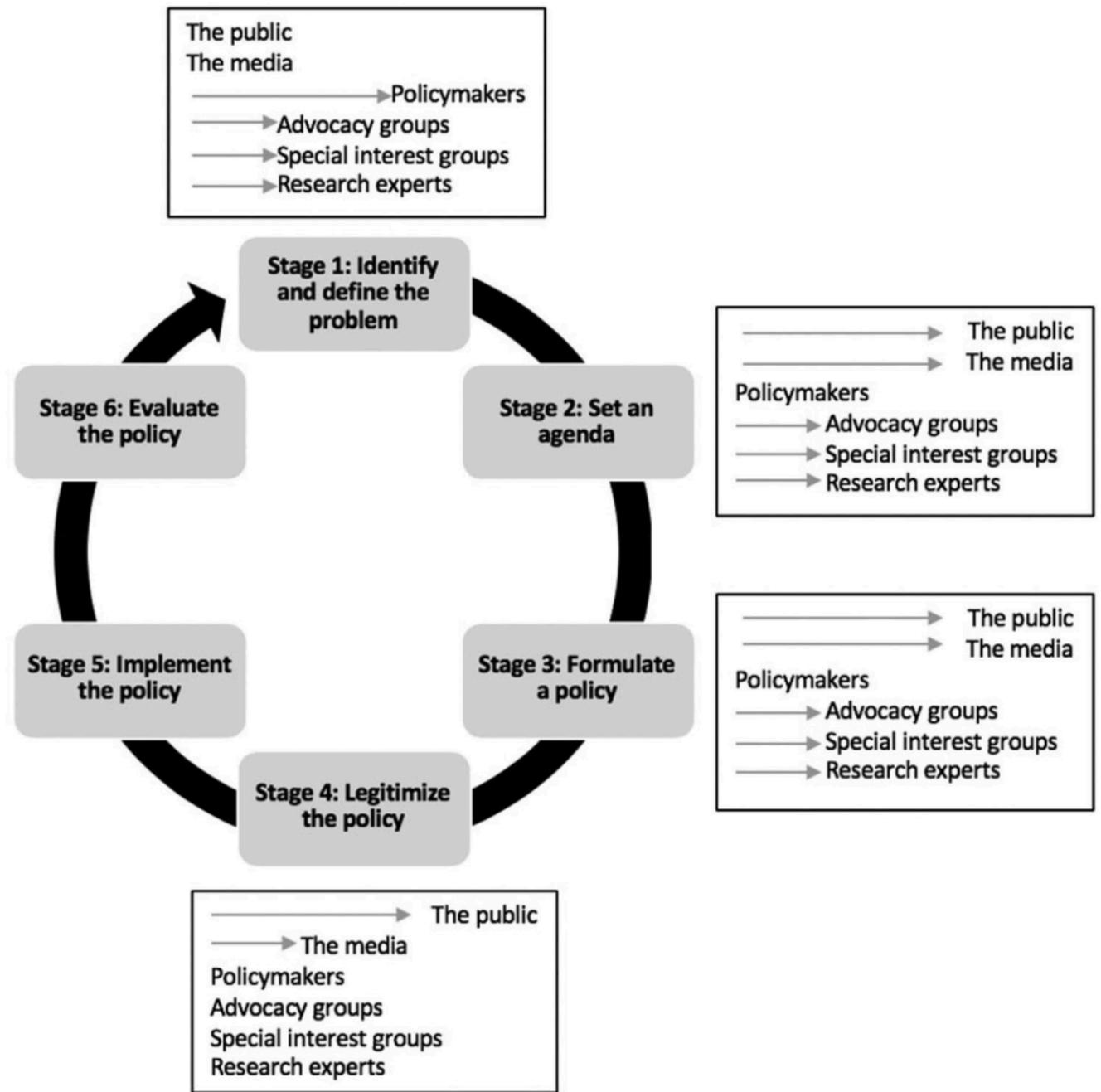
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# STAGE 4

Onset of “official” law-making processes

Focus on “moving” bills” but also look for opportunities to inform “messaging bills”

Connect with committee staff and “outside groups”



The shorter the arrow, the more proximal the stakeholder and more they drive the process

Current Congresses ▾ Examples: hr5, sres9, "health care" 🔍

MORE OPTIONS ▾

Most-Viewed Bills | [Top 10](#)

- [H.R.127](#) [117th] Sabika Sheikh Firearm Licensing and Registration Act
- [S.394](#) [116th] Presidential Transition Enhancement Act of 2019
- [H.R.1](#) [117th] For the People Act of 2021

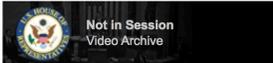
Bill Searches and Lists

- By Sponsor: [House](#) | [Senate](#)
- [Introduced](#) | [Public Laws](#) | [U.S. Code](#) | [Appropriations](#)

Current Legislative Activities

117th Congress (2021-2022)

House of Representatives



Next Meeting: Feb. 18, 2021 at 12:30 PM EST  
Previous Meeting: [Feb. 15, 2021](#)

House Links

- [House Floor Activities](#)
- [Committee Hearings Video](#)
- [Communications to the House](#)
- [Bills to be Considered](#)

Senate



Next Meeting: Feb. 19, 2021 at 10:15 AM EST  
Previous Meeting: [Feb. 16, 2021](#)

Senate Links

- [On the Senate Floor](#)
- [Communications to the Senate](#)
- [Nominations](#)
- [Treaty Documents](#)

Upcoming House and Senate Committee Meetings

[Daily View](#) | [Weekly View](#)

- [Today at 11:00 AM \(EST\)](#) House Committee on Armed Services
- [Today at 11:00 AM \(EST\)](#) House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
- [Feb. 18, 2021 at 10:00 AM \(EST\)](#) House Appropriations Subcommittee on Legislative Branch
- [More](#)

Recent

- [Yesterday in Congress](#)
- [Bill Texts](#)
- [Committee Schedule](#)
- [Floor Calendars](#)
- [Committee Reports](#)
- [Roll Call Votes](#)
- [Presented to President](#)

The Congressional Record

- [Daily Digest](#) of latest legislative activity.
- [Browse by Date](#)

Library of Congress Reports

- [Search CRS Reports](#) Congressional Research Service Reports are available to the public.
- [The Law Library of Congress Reports](#) are produced primarily for Members of Congress.

The Constitution Annotated

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News from the Law Library



February 5, 2021 by Robert Brammer  
**New Committee Email Alerts on Congress.gov: New, Tip, and Top for February 2021**

In the January release, the Congress.gov team brought you an enhancement to speed the loading of large bill texts ...[more](#)

A good place to start

## WHAT'S ON THE DOCKET?

FY21 Budget Reconciliation Bill (funding for Biden's American Rescue Plan)  
Biden plan for education beyond high school

### Early childhood

Affordable childcare

Food insecurity (Pandemic-EBT, WIC CCV, Child and Adult care food program)

### K-12

School return safety measures

Health and wellbeing (staff)

Learning loss (20% of schools' budget)

### Higher Education

Revenue loss (must spend 50% on financial aid grants to prevent hardship)

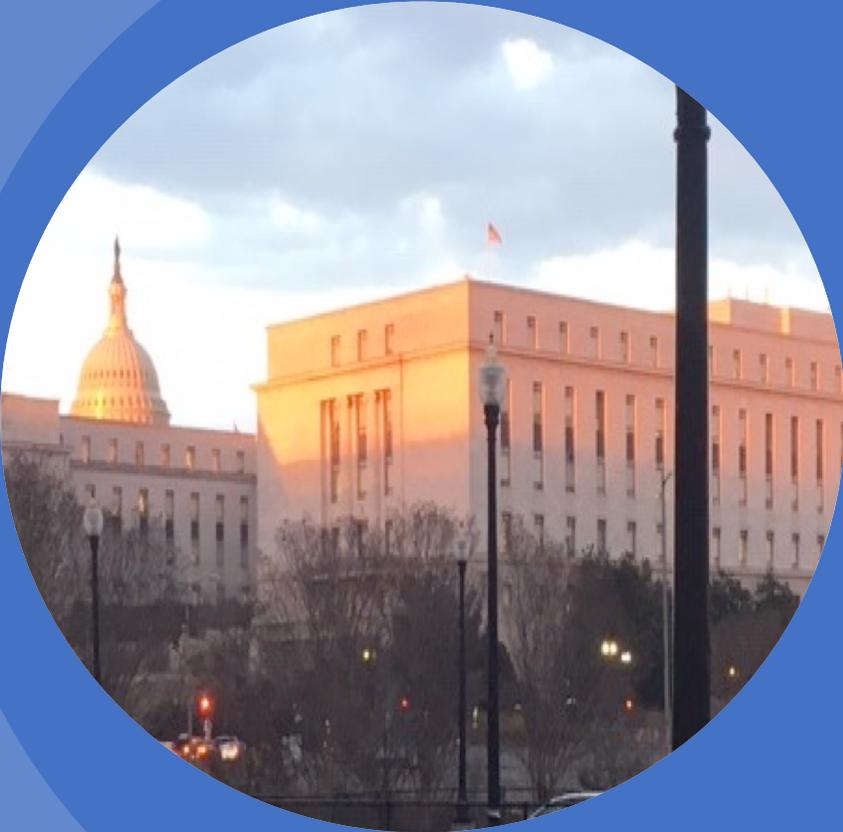
Roll-back of Trump era legislation (e.g. borrower's defense, loan forgiveness)

Strong focus on role of community colleges, HBCUs and MSIs

### Vulnerable populations

Health and well-being of poor children and families

older Americans, survivors of domestic and gender-based violence



*“Learn the lingo, and identify the key players. Realize that the path of evidence is winding, and the destination often distant. It’s not unusual for it to take decades for the weight of evidence to leave its mark on policy. But when it does, the results can often be extraordinary ...”*



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[HTTPS://WWW.AAAS.ORG/FELLOWSHIPS](https://www.aaas.org/fellowships)



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