

HOW **WICKED** IS YOUR PROBLEM?

1. Does your problem have:

- a.) An unknown set of potential consequences?
- b.) An unknown set of potential consequences with manageable risks?
- c.) A predictable and fully understood set of consequences?

2. How would you describe the availability of information surrounding your problem?

- a.) There's no way of knowing what information is needed to reach a good solution
- b.) You know what information is needed but not how to get it
- c.) You know the information needed to solve the problem and how to get it

3. Describe the clarity of your problem:

- a.) It has no definitive formulation, and others may describe it differently
- b.) There may be a correct formulation, but it is neither known or agreed upon
- c.) It is completely understood and agreed upon by others

4. Describe the clarity of your problem's solution:

- a.) There is no way of knowing that any course of action is best, even after taking action
- b.) There is no way of knowing that any course of action is best until *after* the action is taken
- c.) The best course of action can be determined *before* the action is taken

5. How would you describe the sufficiency of your potential solution?

- a.) There is no way of gauging whether a sufficient solution has been reached
- b.) The sufficiency of the solution is not clear, but it will reveal itself quickly
- c.) The solution is sufficient

6. Describe the size of the potential solution set:

- a.) The range of possible solutions to the problem cannot be identified
- b.) The range of possible solutions has not been identified but can be ascertained
- c.) All possible solutions to the problem are known

7. Describe the reversibility of your potential solution:

- a.) Once a decision is made, it is completely irreversible
- b.) Once a decision is made, changing course will have a very high cost
- c.) The decision is reversible, and any damage can be undone at no cost

ANSWERS

Mostly A's: Extremely Wicked

Your problem is extremely wicked and would be appropriate for use in this course.

Mostly B's: Sufficiently Wicked

Your problem is sufficiently wicked and would also be appropriate to focus on in this course.

Mostly C's: Not Wicked

Your problem is not considered wicked and would not be appropriate for use in this course.

Total A's

Total B's

Total C's

