Making Research Matter: Avenues for Affecting Public Policy

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In What Should I Become Involved?

- Identify issues that are most important to you
  - Is this an issue I care enough about to become (and stay) involved?

- Specify domains in which you wish to have impact
  - Who could benefit most from my knowledge and skills?
  - Local communities? State policies? National campaigns?
When Should I Become Involved?

- Consider potential benefits of involvement
  - Would this give me a sense of purpose or meaning?
  - Could this enhance my research, teaching, or professional training?
  - Is this something I value, even if not valued by influential others?
  - How might this bring me closer to my long-term goals?

- Consider potential costs of involvement
  - Is this the right time, or do I really have too much on my plate now?
  - What trade-offs would I be making by getting involved?
  - Would this pull me away from other obligations or goals?
  - Might it be necessary for me to set limits on my involvement?
How Should I Become Involved?

What activities interest me most? What skills do I have to offer?

- **Dissemination of theory-based research**
  - Translating work for policy and practice, publicizing through media

- **Development of research based on policy-relevant questions**
  - Obtain data relevant to current events, campaigns, legal cases

- **Applied research through community partnerships**
  - Assessment and evaluation of applied programs

- **Training and facilitation based on research**
  - Preparing workshops and information sheets, leading dialogues