Metaevaluation revisited, by Michael Scriven

Description

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In this short and readable paper Michael Scriven addresses "three categories of issues that arise about meta-evaluation: (i) exactly what is it; (ii) how is it justified; (iii) when and how should it be used? In the following, I say something about all three—definition, justification, and application." He then makes seven main points, each of which he elaborates on in some detail:

- Meta-evaluation is the consultant's version of peer review.
- 2. Meta-evaluation is the proof that evaluators believe what they say.
- 3. In meta-evaluation, as in all evaluation, check the pulse before trimming the nails.
- 4. A partial meta-evaluation is better than none.
- 5. Make the most of meta-evaluation.
- 6. Any systematic approach to evaluationâ€"in other words, almost any kind of professional evaluationâ€"automatically provides a systematic basis for meta-evaluation.
- 7. Fundamentally, meta-evaluation, like evaluation, is simply an extension of common senseâ€"and that's the first defense to use against the suggestion that it's some kind of fancy academic embellishment.

Category

1. Uncategorized

Tags

1. meta-evaluation

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