Assignment: Sustainability Problem Framing

Description
This assignment asks students to frame their projects’ research problem as a sustainability problem using a particular set of criteria. Other’s criteria may be available, and can be used for this assignment as long as they help students systematically explore, explain, and justify how their research problem threatens the viability of social-ecological systems.

Instructions
The “wicked nature” of sustainability problems makes systematic analysis of them important for developing appropriate solutions options that address all of their dimensions and allows evaluation of solution options in terms of how well they accomplish this task. Use the criteria for identifying a sustainability problem from Wiek (2010) to frame the problem presented as a sustainability problem. Explain how the problem exhibits each of the characteristics of each criteria and provide evidence.

Life-threatening: ____________________________________________________________

Complex: ________________________________________________________________

Urgent: _________________________________________________________________

Long-term: ______________________________________________________________

Place-based: _____________________________________________________________

Contested: ______________________________________________________________