

FOUNDATIONAL WHITEPAPER / JUNE 2026

WhyDive Framework: Why It Exists

Strengthening Judgment
Under Evidence Constraints

CORE CLAIM

WhyDive™ makes visible the movement
from evidence to commitment before
commitment becomes action.

Contents

This whitepaper introduces WhyDive as a disciplined framework for making the movement from evidence to judgment, commitment, action, and consequence more visible.

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WHAT LEADERS NEED TO KNOW

The hidden movement from evidence to action is judgment.

WhyDive makes visible how evidence becomes reasoning, reasoning informs judgment, and judgment forms commitments that guide action.

01 / PROBLEM

Information does not act.

Evidence must be interpreted, weighed, and judged before it becomes action.

02 / CONSTRUCT

Commitment is the key variable.

Confidence, certainty, scope, and action should remain proportionate to support.

03 / SYSTEM

WhyDive disciplines the movement.

Reading, data, arguments, and AI evaluation are evidence environments, not separate architectures.

04 / STATUS

The posture is explicit and restrained.

WhyDive is proposed as a framework; validation remains future work.

INVESTOR READ

WhyDive is not presented as a finished validation claim. It is presented as a disciplined framework for examining how commitment forms under evidence constraints.

The Movement From Evidence to Action

This paper traces how evidence becomes interpretation, interpretation becomes judgment, and judgment becomes commitment before action follows.

Evidence

What is actually available?

Reasoning

What can responsibly be inferred?

Judgment

What commitment is warranted?

Decision

What will be relied on?

Action

What follows from the commitment?

Consequence

Why does proportionality matter?

ANCHOR CLAIM

WhyDive exists to keep the support-to-commitment relationship visible before commitment becomes action.

intro

Introduction

This opening names the hidden movement from evidence to action.

CONCERN	KEY RELATION	RISK	POSTURE
Hidden movement	Support → commitment	Overclaiming	Restraint

Evidence provides support. Commitment places weight on that support.

Introduction

Human beings do not act directly from evidence.

They act from judgments formed about what evidence means.

This distinction is easy to miss because evidence often appears near the surface of action. A chart is shown before a decision is made. A study is cited before a policy is proposed. A test result is reviewed before a course of care is chosen. A report is circulated before an organization changes direction. A headline spreads before a public reaction gathers force.

In each case, evidence matters. But evidence does not act.

Something happens between what is observed and what is done.

Information is interpreted. Possibilities are considered. Conclusions begin to form. Confidence rises or falls. Uncertainty is tolerated, ignored, reduced, or overridden. At some point, a person or group becomes sufficiently committed to speak, decide, recommend, prioritize, or act.

That hidden movement is the concern of this whitepaper.

Modern life is not short on information. In many settings, the opposite problem now feels more familiar. People encounter data, analysis, expert opinion, historical records,

institutional reports, public commentary, and machine-generated responses at a speed and scale that earlier generations could not have imagined. The International Telecommunication Union estimated that about six billion people, roughly three quarters of the world's population, were using the internet in 2025.

Yet access to information does not by itself settle the question of judgment.

The same evidence can be interpreted differently. The same report can produce different recommendations. The same uncertainty can lead one person to pause and another to proceed. The same possibility can be treated as a remote risk, a probable outcome, or an urgent certainty.

The problem, then, is not simply whether people have information.

The problem is how people move from evidence toward action.

WhyDive begins from a concern.

Human beings often must act before certainty is available. Under those conditions, the relationship between support and commitment becomes especially important. Evidence provides support. Commitment places weight on that support.

That concern may sound obvious. But

obvious concerns are not always easy to honor. Human beings often face situations in which evidence is incomplete, uncertainty remains, action cannot be postponed indefinitely, and consequences matter. Under those conditions, the central challenge is not perfect certainty. The central challenge is disciplined judgment.

This whitepaper introduces WhyDive as a framework for making the movement from evidence to action more visible. It does not claim that WhyDive has already solved the problem of judgment. It does not claim that a single research tradition validates the framework as a system. It does not claim that people, organizations, or institutions can eliminate uncertainty from human life.

Its aim is more modest and, for that reason, more demanding.

It asks what must be kept in view when evidence becomes conclusion, conclusion becomes judgment, judgment becomes decision, and decision becomes action. It asks how people can remain disciplined when the evidence available to them is

partial, uncertain, or contested. It asks how a framework concerned with overclaiming can avoid overclaiming about itself.

The sections that follow move in stages.

First, the paper names the human problem: information does not act, yet human beings must. Second, it maps the hidden movement from evidence to action. Third, it gives special attention to judgment as the stage where commitment becomes consequential. Fourth, it explains reasoning as a necessary support for judgment rather than a substitute for it. Fifth, it names overclaiming as a recurring failure in the relationship between evidence and commitment. Sixth, it introduces WhyDive as a framework for disciplined judgment. Seventh, it explains why proportionality matters. Finally, it closes by placing WhyDive under the same standard it asks others to practice.

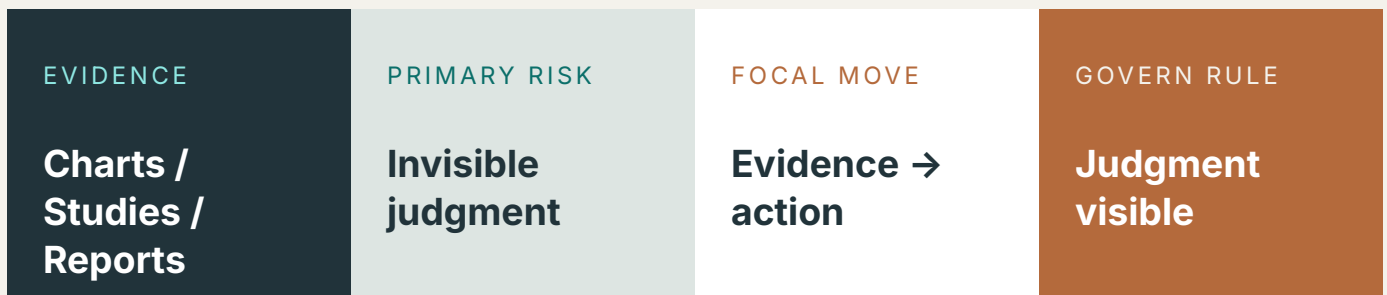
A framework committed to proportionality must apply the same standard to itself.

That is the posture of this paper.

01

The Human Problem

This section makes the invisibility of judgment feel obvious.



Between evidence and action stands judgment.

The Human Problem

A chart does not make a decision.

A scientific study does not implement a policy.

A business report does not change an organization.

A medical test does not determine a course of treatment.

A news article does not alter a society.

Each may matter. Each may carry evidence that deserves attention. Each may inform what follows. But none of them acts on its own.

Between evidence and action stands judgment.

This is the first problem WhyDive seeks to make visible. Human beings do not move from information to action by a direct mechanical path. They encounter evidence, interpret what it may mean, form conclusions about it, judge what those conclusions warrant, and eventually decide what should be said or done.

That movement can happen carefully or carelessly. It can happen slowly or almost instantly. It can happen in one mind, across a team, inside an institution, or through a public conversation. It can be shaped

by expertise, pressure, fear, hope, habit, incentives, values, and prior belief.

But however it happens, the movement matters.

Modern society has become remarkably good at producing, preserving, and distributing information. Research can be published globally. Data can be stored at enormous scale. News can move instantly. Educational resources can be accessed from almost anywhere. Search engines can retrieve more material than a person could read in a lifetime. Artificial intelligence systems can generate knowledge-like responses in seconds.

These developments are not trivial. Information access matters. Expertise matters. Education matters. Evidence matters.

But the existence of more information does not automatically produce better judgment.

Organizations with extensive data still make costly mistakes. Experts still disagree. Institutions still fail. Communities still polarize around competing interpretations of the same events. Individuals still act against their own long-term interests. Public conversations still

harden around claims that later prove too broad, too certain, or too poorly supported.

The puzzle is not merely that poor judgment exists.

The puzzle is that it persists even where information is abundant, expertise is available, and evidence can be readily accessed.

One common explanation is that failures happen because people lack information. Sometimes that is true. A missing fact can matter. A hidden variable can change the meaning of a situation. Better evidence can correct a mistaken conclusion.

But this explanation is incomplete.

Judgment can fail even when information is available. It can fail when people are intelligent. It can fail when they are credentialed, experienced, and analytically capable. It can fail not because evidence is absent, but because the movement from evidence to action has not been sufficiently understood.

Bias may contribute to judgment failures. So may incentives, fear, pressure, habit, or prior belief. But even naming those influences does not fully explain how evidence eventually becomes action.

Information does not determine its own meaning.

Something must interpret it.

Something must weigh it.

Something must decide what follows from it.

People often notice the visible end of this process. They see the conclusion someone states, the decision an organization makes, the action a leader takes, or the consequence that follows. They rarely see the full chain of reasoning and judgment that made that conclusion, decision, or action appear warranted.

This hiddenness is part of the difficulty.

People see a policy. They do not always see the assumptions that made the policy seem necessary. They see a business decision. They do not always see how uncertainty was handled before the decision was made. They see a public claim. They do not always see how far that claim has moved beyond the evidence that first supported it.

Many consequential failures begin inside this hidden movement.

Interpretations become stronger.

Confidence grows.

Uncertainty recedes from view.

Tentative conclusions become increasingly difficult to question.

The form changes from domain to domain, but the pattern is familiar: people can become convinced before the limits of the evidence have been adequately examined.

WhyDive does not begin by assuming that people are foolish for doing this. Human beings frequently act under limits. Evidence may be incomplete. Time may be short. Decisions may still be necessary. Waiting for perfect certainty can itself become irresponsible.

The problem is not that people must act without perfect knowledge.

The problem is that the movement from evidence to action can proceed before uncertainty has been adequately

examined.

This is why the movement between evidence and action deserves attention. If information alone were enough, then the central task would be simply to produce and distribute more of it. But if information must be interpreted, weighed, and judged before it becomes action, then another task appears.

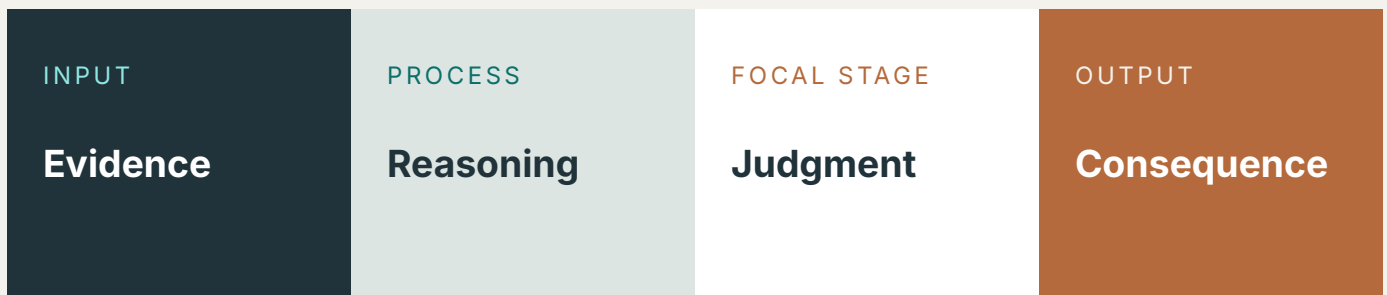
We must understand what happens between evidence and action.

That is where WhyDive begins.

From Evidence To Action

02

This section gives the reader the map.



Evidence enters. Reasoning evaluates. Judgment weighs. Decision directs. Action follows. Consequences arrive.

From Evidence To Action

If the movement from evidence to action deserves attention, the next question is what that movement looks like.

It cannot be mapped perfectly. Human beings do not always proceed in clean stages. They often move quickly, intuitively, socially, emotionally, or under pressure. Institutions may divide the movement across many people and procedures. Public conversations may scatter it across platforms, incentives, and audiences.

Still, the movement has a recognizable structure.

Evidence provides inputs.

Human beings determine what those inputs mean.

Evidence, in this sense, refers to information available to support or challenge a conclusion. It may come as data, testimony, observation, record, report, chart, text, experience, or expert analysis. Evidence may be strong or weak, direct or indirect, complete or partial. But evidence does not interpret itself.

It enters human life as something that must be understood.

A test result must be read. A statistic

must be placed in context. A witness account must be weighed. A chart must be interpreted. A study must be examined for what it does and does not show. Even when evidence is clear, someone must still determine what follows from it.

That is why the movement from evidence to action cannot be reduced to evidence alone.

The first work of reasoning is interpretation.

Interpretation asks what the evidence appears to mean. It notices patterns, identifies possible explanations, and begins to connect what is observed with what may be true. This is not treated here as a separate stage in the model, but as part of reasoning itself. Evidence rarely arrives already labeled with its full significance.

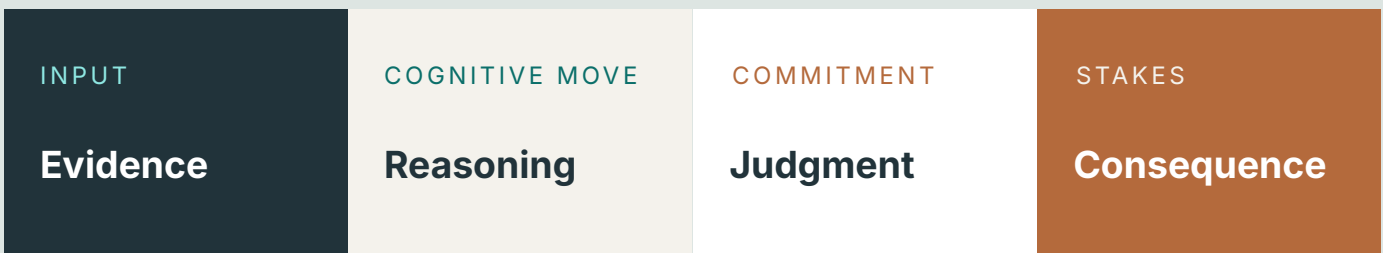
And interpretation is not yet enough.

Possible meanings must be tested. Alternatives must be considered. Weaknesses must be noticed. A first impression may need to be challenged by a second possibility. A plausible explanation may need to be compared with another.

This is the work of reasoning.

From Evidence to Action

The reader needs to see the basic movement: evidence enters, reasoning evaluates, judgment weighs, and action follows.



Evidence Enters

Facts, observations, testimony, patterns, data, or experience provide inputs.



Reasoning Evaluates

Possibilities are interpreted, compared, connected, and weighed.



Judgment Weighs

Understanding becomes commitment under uncertainty and constraint.



Action Follows

Commitments can become decisions, recommendations, policies, or conduct.

Reasoning evaluates possibilities. It asks what the evidence supports, what it does not support, where uncertainty remains, and what limitations should be acknowledged. Reasoning does not make human beings perfectly objective. It does not remove every influence from judgment. But without reasoning, evidence can too easily become whatever a person first takes it to mean.

Reasoning helps determine what conclusions the available evidence can reasonably support.

A conclusion is not yet an action. It is a settled or emerging answer to the question, "What does this evidence support?" Sometimes the answer is strong. Sometimes it is tentative. Sometimes the most responsible conclusion is that the evidence does not yet support much at all.

In this model, conclusions are products of reasoning rather than separate stages in the sequence. They matter because they become the material judgment must handle.

Even then, another question remains.

What should be done with the conclusion?

This is where the movement begins to approach action. A conclusion may be held privately, communicated publicly, used to recommend a decision, or treated as a basis for change. It may remain tentative, or it may become increasingly actionable.

Reasoning evaluates possibilities.

Judgment determines which possibilities become actionable.

That distinction matters. A person may understand several possible meanings of the same evidence and still need to decide which interpretation deserves confidence, which uncertainty can be tolerated, and whether the available support is sufficient for action. In real situations, analysis does not always end with perfect certainty. Yet decisions still arrive.

Judgment moves the process toward decision.

A decision translates judgment into direction. It may be formal or informal, individual or collective, immediate or delayed. A decision says, in effect, this is the course we will follow, the claim we will make, the recommendation we will offer, or the priority we will set.

Action then carries the decision into the world.

Action may be a policy, purchase, vote, diagnosis, lesson plan, public statement, institutional change, personal commitment, or refusal to act. Once action occurs, consequences follow. Those consequences may be intended or unintended, visible or delayed, minor or significant.

This whitepaper uses a simple sequence to keep that movement in view:

Evidence → Reasoning → Judgment →
Decision → Action → Consequences

The sequence is explanatory, not exhaustive. It is not intended to capture every aspect of cognition, emotion, culture, motivation, or behavior. Its purpose is narrower: to highlight the stages that become especially important when asking how evidence eventually becomes action.

The model also should not be read as mechanically linear. People may move back and forth. New evidence may change reasoning. A decision may expose uncertainty that requires reconsideration. Consequences may force a return to earlier assumptions. The sequence is useful not because human beings always follow it neatly, but because it makes visible what often remains hidden.

Evidence enters.

Reasoning evaluates.

Judgment weighs.

Decision directs.

Action follows.

Consequences arrive.

Once this movement becomes visible, the original problem sharpens. The question is no longer simply whether people have enough information. Nor is it only whether they can reason at all. The question becomes where, within this movement, the weight of action begins to gather.

Not all stages in the chain contribute equally.

Some deserve closer examination than others.

One stage appears to sit at the intersection of evidence, reasoning, decision, and action.

Understanding that stage is the next task.

03

Judgment

This section shows why judgment is focal.

QUESTION	PRIMARY RISK	ACTIVE MOVE	GOVERN RULE
What can be relied on?	Premature commitment	Possible → actionable	Commitment under constraint

Judgment is where understanding begins to become commitment.

Judgment

Within the movement from evidence to action, one question becomes especially important: where does the weight of action begin to gather?

The answer is judgment.

This does not mean that the other stages are unimportant. Evidence matters. Reasoning matters. Decisions matter. Actions and consequences matter. But judgment occupies a distinctive position because it is the stage at which a person or group becomes prepared to rely on a conclusion.

Judgment is where understanding begins to become commitment.

The need for judgment arises because certainty is often unavailable. If evidence always answered every question completely, judgment would be far less important. A person could simply observe the evidence and follow whatever it made unavoidable.

But human beings rarely live in that world.

Evidence may be incomplete. Interpretations may compete. Time may be limited. Consequences may matter before every uncertainty can be resolved. A leader may need to decide. A physician

may need to recommend. A teacher may need to respond. A community may need to act. A person may need to choose.

In such situations, reasoning remains necessary, but it is not always sufficient.

Reasoning can clarify what remains possible. It can examine alternatives, identify weaknesses, test assumptions, and ask what the evidence does or does not support. Reasoning may show that several conclusions remain plausible. It may also show that no conclusion is yet as strong as a person first hoped.

Yet reasoning alone does not always determine what follows.

At some point, a conclusion may need to become actionable. A course may need to be selected. A recommendation may need to be made. A claim may need to be held with some degree of confidence. A commitment may need to form.

That is the work of judgment.

Reasoning asks, "What could be true?"

Judgment asks, "What am I prepared to act on?"

Consider a physician facing evidence consistent with more than one diagnosis.

Reasoning helps identify the possible explanations, compare them, and notice what remains uncertain. Judgment determines whether the available evidence is sufficient to begin treatment, seek more information, or hold a conclusion tentatively.

This distinction is central. Reasoning evaluates possibilities. Judgment determines which possibilities become actionable. Reasoning clarifies support. Judgment determines commitment under constraint.

Judgment, then, should not be defined by everything that may influence it. Values may influence judgment. So may identity, obligation, purpose, community, emotion, habit, pressure, and prior belief. These influences matter. They may shape how evidence is noticed, interpreted, trusted, resisted, or applied.

But they are not judgment itself.

If judgment becomes the name for every factor that enters a human decision, the term becomes too broad to help. In WhyDive, judgment is defined more narrowly by what it must do. It determines how much confidence is warranted, which uncertainties remain acceptable, whether the available evidence is sufficient for action, and when further analysis should give way to commitment.

Evidence informs these determinations.

Reasoning supports them.

Neither eliminates the need to make them.

This is why judgment deserves independent attention. It is not merely another word for thinking. Nor is it merely the final step after reasoning has already settled everything. Judgment is the activity through which a person or group decides how firmly to rely on a conclusion when action remains possible, necessary, or unavoidable.

The consequences of judgment are visible everywhere, even when the judgment itself remains hidden.

A report does not change an organization until someone judges what the report means and what should follow from it. A chart does not redirect a budget until someone judges what the pattern warrants. A study does not shape policy until someone judges how far its findings should be carried. A medical result does not determine care until someone judges what course is justified.

In each case, evidence provides inputs. Reasoning evaluates what those inputs may support. Judgment determines whether and how the conclusion should guide action.

This also explains why judgment can succeed or fail even when evidence is available and reasoning is active. The problem may not be the absence of

Judgment Forms Commitment Under Constraint

A claim is not disciplined because it feels plausible. It is disciplined when commitment remains proportionate to support.

INPUT

**What the evidence
can responsibly
bear**

Available information may be strong, weak, incomplete, contested, or uncertain.



COMMITMENT

**What a person or
group becomes
prepared to rely
on**

Judgment gives reasoning practical force when it determines confidence, scope, communication, or action.

GOVERNING
QUESTION

Does the strength of commitment remain proportionate to the strength of support available?

information. It may not be the absence of analysis. The problem may be the degree of commitment formed under uncertainty.

Commitment can remain tentative.

Commitment can become firm.

Commitment can guide speech, recommendation, decision, or action.

For now, the important point is simpler: judgment is the stage where commitment forms. It is where evidence and reasoning begin to acquire practical force. It is where the movement from evidence to action becomes consequential.

This does not diminish reasoning.

It gives reasoning its purpose.

If judgment determines commitment, then reasoning matters because it helps clarify what commitment the evidence can responsibly bear.

Reasoning In Service Of Judgment



This section protects the reasoning/judgment distinction.

EVIDENCE Partial / contested	PRIMARY RISK Unsupported inference	ACTIVE WORK Clarifylimits	GOVERN RULE Reasoning serves judgment
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Reasoning helps judgment see where confidence may stand and where confidence should stop.

Reasoning In Service Of Judgment

If judgment determines what becomes actionable, the role of reasoning must be clarified.

The answer is not that reasoning is secondary in the sense of being unimportant. Reasoning is indispensable. Without reasoning, evidence remains largely uninterpreted. Information may be present, but a person may have no disciplined way to examine what that information suggests, what it leaves uncertain, or what it cannot responsibly support.

Reasoning matters because evidence must be clarified.

Evidence rarely arrives with instructions attached. A chart does not announce how far its pattern should be trusted. A study does not automatically explain which situations its findings apply to. A report does not mark every assumption inside its conclusions. A testimony does not reveal every limitation on its own.

Information must be examined.

Claims must be evaluated.

Alternatives must be considered.

Uncertainty must be identified.

Reasoning performs this clarifying work. It asks what the evidence supports, what the evidence challenges, which conclusions remain plausible, and which limitations should be acknowledged. It helps a person see not only that evidence exists, but what kind of support that evidence may provide.

This is why reasoning cannot be dismissed.

If judgment determines commitment, then reasoning helps determine what commitment the evidence can responsibly bear. It gives judgment something more disciplined to work with than impulse, first impression, social pressure, or preference.

But reasoning does more than clarify support.

It also clarifies limits.

This second function is just as important. Good reasoning does not merely help people justify conclusions they already want to reach. It also helps reveal what the evidence does not show, where an inference becomes weak, where an assumption has entered the argument, and where uncertainty remains unresolved.

In that sense, reasoning establishes boundaries.

It may show that a conclusion is possible but not yet probable. It may show that an explanation is plausible but not the only plausible explanation. It may show that a pattern is real but its cause remains unclear. It may show that a finding is useful in one context but not ready to bear the weight being placed on it in another.

For example, evidence may suggest that two things move together. Reasoning helps ask whether one causes the other, whether both are shaped by something else, or whether the relationship may be limited to a particular context. In that case, reasoning clarifies limits rather than merely strengthening the first available conclusion.

These boundaries matter because judgment must eventually decide how strongly to rely on a conclusion.

Reasoning helps judgment see where confidence may stand.

It also helps judgment see where confidence should stop.

This is one of reasoning's most important contributions to disciplined judgment. Reasoning does not only support movement toward conclusion. It also supports restraint. It can slow the movement from evidence to action long enough for limits to become visible.

Yet even excellent reasoning does not eliminate judgment.

A person may understand the strengths of the evidence, the weaknesses of the evidence, the competing explanations, and the remaining uncertainty, and still face the practical question:

What should I do?

At that point, reasoning informs judgment. It does not replace it.

This distinction is easy to lose because many discussions of thinking treat reasoning as if it were the endpoint. The assumption often appears to be that better reasoning leads directly to better outcomes. There is truth in the direction of that thought, but it is incomplete.

Better reasoning improves understanding.

Understanding alone does not determine action.

Outcomes emerge through decisions and actions. Decisions and actions are shaped by judgments. The path from reasoning to consequence is therefore indirect. Reasoning matters deeply, but its significance lies in the judgments it helps form.

This keeps WhyDive from becoming anti-reasoning.

It also keeps WhyDive from becoming merely a reasoning framework.

Reasoning is necessary because judgment needs clarified support. Judgment is necessary because clarified support

still has to become commitment under constraint. The two are related, but they are not the same.

The quality of that commitment depends in part on how accurately support and limitation have been understood.

Reasoning asks what the evidence can responsibly support.

Judgment asks what a person or group is prepared to rely on.

When reasoning serves judgment well, it gives judgment both direction and restraint. It helps identify what may be

concluded, what may not be concluded, and what remains uncertain. It prepares judgment to act without pretending that uncertainty has disappeared.

That preparation matters because human beings do not always remain within the limits their evidence can support.

Sometimes the movement from evidence to action remains disciplined.

Sometimes it does not.

Understanding that failure requires naming a recurring problem in human judgment.

That problem is overclaiming.

The Problem Of Overclaiming

This section makes the core failure memorable.

CORE FAILURE	VARIABLE	BREAKDOWN	GOVERN RULE
Overclaiming	Commitment	Support exceeded	Proportionate weight

Overclaiming occurs when commitment exceeds evidential support.

Where Overclaiming Shows Up

Overclaiming occurs when one or more aspects of a conclusion exceed what the available evidence can reasonably support.

ASPECT 1

Confidence or Certainty

A possibility is communicated as though it were settled.

ASPECT 2

Generality

A limited observation becomes a sweeping claim.

ASPECT 3

Causal Attribution

A pattern or sequence is treated as a cause.

ASPECT 4

Recommended Action

A tentative conclusion is carried farther than support justifies.

ANCHOR CLAIM

At its core, overclaiming is a failure of proportionality.

The Problem Of Overclaiming

Human beings do not always remain within the limits their evidence can support.

That failure has many surface forms.

A conclusion becomes more certain than the evidence allows. A finding becomes broader than the study that produced it.

A pattern becomes treated as a cause.

A possibility becomes communicated as though it were probable. A limited observation becomes the basis for a sweeping recommendation.

The content may change.

The structure is recognizable.

WhyDive refers to this broader pattern as overclaiming.

Overclaiming occurs when one or more aspects of a conclusion exceed what the available evidence can reasonably support. Those aspects may include confidence, certainty, generality, causal attribution, recommended action, or some other form of commitment.

At its core, overclaiming is a failure of proportionality.

The problem is not merely whether a conclusion is correct.

The problem is whether the strength of the

conclusion remains proportionate to the strength of the support available.

This distinction matters because overclaiming is not the same as error.

A person may reach a conclusion that later turns out to be false without overclaiming.

That can happen when the person acknowledged uncertainty, limited the claim appropriately, and acted within the support available at the time.

The reverse is also possible. A person may make a claim that later turns out to be true while still overclaiming when the claim was made. The issue is not only whether reality eventually agrees with the conclusion. The issue is whether the evidence available at the time justified the strength of the claim.

Consider a simple example.

A single study reports evidence suggesting a possible effect.

One response says: this finding is interesting and warrants further investigation.

Another response says: this proves the effect exists.

Both responses refer to the same evidence. The difference is not

information. The difference is proportionality. One conclusion remains close to what the evidence supports. The other extends beyond it.

The stronger claim may eventually turn out to be correct. Further studies may support it. But that does not settle whether the stronger claim was justified at the moment it was made. WhyDive is concerned with that relationship between available support and the commitment formed from it.

The basic contrast can be pictured simply:

Overclaiming is also not identical to overconfidence.

Research on confidence and calibration belongs near this conversation, but WhyDive is asking a broader structural question. Overconfidence asks whether confidence exceeds reality. WhyDive asks whether commitment remains proportionate to evidential support.

These concerns can overlap. They are not the same.

A person can be highly confident with strong support. A person can be highly confident with weak support. A person can be cautious where support is thin. A person can also be too cautious when support is strong enough for action.

The central question is not confidence by itself.

The central question is the relationship

between support and commitment.

This is why overclaiming can appear across domains without always looking the same. In education, it may appear when a narrow assessment result is treated as a complete picture of a learner. In business, it may appear when a trend is treated as a reliable forecast before uncertainty has been examined. In public discourse, it may appear when a partial fact becomes the basis for a sweeping claim. In everyday life, it may appear when a single experience becomes a rule about how things always are.

These examples are different in content.

They are similar in structure.

In each case, the conclusion begins to carry more weight than the evidence can reasonably bear.

Overclaiming matters because conclusions do not remain isolated. They move through judgment, decision, action, and consequence. A conclusion that exceeds available support may eventually produce a recommendation, a policy, a public reaction, a personal commitment, or an institutional decision that also exceeds available justification.

The farther a conclusion travels through the chain, the more consequential the original disproportion may become.

Disproportionate commitment can create disproportionate consequences.

In the language of support and load, overclaiming places more weight on a conclusion than the available evidence can bear.

This is the turning point of the whitepaper.

The challenge is not merely acquiring more information. Nor is it merely becoming more analytical. Information must still be interpreted. Reasoning must still clarify support and limits. Judgment must still determine commitment under constraint.

The challenge is maintaining an appropriate relationship between what the evidence can support and what people become prepared to believe, say, recommend, decide, or do.

Many intellectual traditions organize around questions of truth, accuracy, knowledge, or belief. WhyDive introduces

a different organizing concern: proportionality.

Does the strength of the confidence, certainty, generalization, causal claim, or recommended action remain proportionate to the support available?

Overclaiming occurs when that proportionality breaks down.

Once the problem is named this way, the next question becomes unavoidable.

If overclaiming is a recurring failure in the movement from evidence to action, what kind of framework could help make that movement more visible and more disciplined?

That is the question WhyDive is designed to answer.

A Framework For Disciplined Judgment

This section reveals WhyDive as the response after the reader understands the problem.

FRAMEWORK WhyDive	PRIMARY TASK Make movement visible	DISCIPLINE Proportionality	GOVERN RULE Strong evidence / strong claim
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Strong conclusions require strong evidence.

A Framework For Disciplined Judgment

If overclaiming is a recurring failure in the movement from evidence to action, then a practical question follows.

What kind of framework could help people see that movement more clearly?

WhyDive is proposed as one response to that question.

It is a framework for disciplined judgment under evidence constraints. Its concern is not merely whether people have information, or whether they can reason, or whether they eventually make decisions. Its concern is the movement through which evidence becomes judgment, judgment becomes decision, and decision becomes action.

More specifically, WhyDive is concerned with maintaining appropriate proportionality between evidential support and commitment before commitment becomes action.

That is the thread running through the argument so far.

Evidence provides inputs.

Reasoning evaluates possibilities.

Judgment determines commitment.

Overclaiming occurs when commitment

exceeds evidential support.

WhyDive exists to help make that relationship visible.

This does not mean WhyDive is a worldview, ideology, political position, religious system, or philosophy of life. It does not attempt to determine what people must value. It does not dictate what conclusions people must reach in every contested situation.

Its concern is narrower and more disciplined.

It asks whether the claims informing judgment remain proportionate to the evidence supporting them. It asks whether confidence, certainty, generality, causal attribution, and recommended action remain appropriately connected to available support. It asks whether the movement from evidence to action has remained visible enough to be examined.

At the heart of WhyDive is a simple principle:

Strong conclusions require strong evidence.

That principle can be understood as a boundary discipline:

Strong Conclusions Require Strong Evidence

The framework becomes constructive when a boundary violation can be converted into a proportionate claim.

Evidence

The available support may be strong, partial, contested, or uncertain.



Authorized

The claim remains close to what the support can reasonably bear.



Plausible or Speculative

The claim may be possible, but its strength must be limited.



Unsupported

The commitment carries more weight than the evidence can bear.

The purpose of the boundary is not to forbid movement. It is to keep visible how far a claim has moved from what the evidence can authorize.

The principle is easy to state. It is harder to practice. Human beings regularly face situations in which evidence is incomplete, uncertainty remains, action cannot be postponed indefinitely, and consequences matter. In those conditions, the challenge is not eliminating uncertainty. The challenge is preventing commitment from outrunning support.

WhyDive is designed around that challenge.

It seeks to make the movement from evidence to action more visible so that judgment can be formed with greater attention to support, limitation, uncertainty, commitment, and consequence. It is not a substitute for judgment. It is a framework for supporting judgment.

This also clarifies WhyDive's relationship to neighboring traditions.

Reasoning research helps explain how people reason. Decision science helps explain how people decide. Epistemic cognition helps explain how people think about knowledge, evidence, certainty, and justification. Critical thinking helps evaluate arguments. Media literacy helps evaluate information sources.

These traditions illuminate important parts

of the problem space.

WhyDive does not need to replace them.

It attempts to name a concern that often remains distributed across them: how evidential support becomes human commitment, and how that commitment can remain proportionate before it becomes action.

That is why WhyDive is not reducible to a reasoning program, a decision model, a fact-checking method, or a media literacy approach. Each may matter. Each may contribute. But WhyDive's focal concern is the support-to-commitment relationship within the larger movement from evidence to action.

The framework therefore emphasizes a few recurring disciplines: evidence must be examined, reasoning must clarify support and limits, judgment must determine commitment under constraint, and consequences must remain visible because judgment does not end inside the mind.

These disciplines are introduced here conceptually. Their operational treatment belongs elsewhere. This whitepaper does not need to introduce the full machinery of boundary systems, authorization matrices, violation engines, repair protocols, or developmental bands. Those belong to later framework documents.

Whitepaper #1 has a simpler task.

It explains why the framework exists.

WhyDive exists because human beings often must act without perfect certainty, yet action should not be guided by conclusions that exceed their support. It exists because evidence does not act, reasoning does not eliminate judgment, and judgment can form commitments that shape decisions, actions, and consequences.

The framework does not promise perfect correctness.

It does not eliminate uncertainty.

It does not claim that WhyDive has already demonstrated improved outcomes.

Instead, WhyDive proposes a disciplined way to keep the support-to-commitment relationship in view.

That proposal matters because overclaiming is not only an intellectual problem. It is a practical problem. When conclusions become stronger than their support, the decisions and actions built upon them may also become stronger than their justification.

Disciplined judgment therefore begins with a practical concern:

How can people become more careful in the relationship between evidence, commitment, and action?

WhyDive is a framework for that concern.

The next question is why the concern matters beyond analysis. If proportionality is the organizing principle, then its importance must be shown not only in thought, but in the consequences that follow when judgment guides life.

Why Proportionality Matters

07

This section shows stakes without becoming moralistic.

SCALE	PRIMARY RISK	ACTIVE MOVE	GOVERN RULE
Individual → institution	Amplified consequence	Commitment → action	Consequences visible

When commitment exceeds support, consequences may exceed what the original evidence justified.

Why Proportionality Matters

Why should proportionality matter?

Why should anyone care whether commitment remains proportionate to evidential support?

The answer is not merely intellectual.

The answer is practical.

Human beings act on commitments.

Organizations act on commitments.

Institutions act on commitments.

Communities act on commitments. A conclusion that remains private may affect only the person who holds it. But a conclusion that becomes a recommendation, policy, priority, public claim, institutional decision, or course of action begins to move through the world.

That is why proportionality matters.

When commitment exceeds support, the resulting consequences may exceed what the original evidence justified.

This is the practical counterpart to the framework's central concern. Evidence does not act. Reasoning does not act. Even judgment, by itself, may remain internal. But once judgment forms commitment, and commitment begins to guide decision and action, the relationship between support

and commitment becomes consequential.

At an individual level, this happens constantly. People make judgments about health, money, relationships, education, career decisions, personal priorities, and risk. Rarely do these judgments occur under complete certainty. Evidence may be partial. Alternatives may remain possible. Time may matter. Action may still be necessary.

The question is not whether commitment will occur.

The question is whether commitment remains proportionate to the support available.

A person who refuses to act until certainty arrives may fail to respond when response is needed. A person who acts with more certainty than the evidence supports may carry a conclusion farther than the situation warrants. In both directions, proportionality matters because life often requires commitment before certainty is complete.

The same pattern becomes more consequential inside organizations.

Organizations transform judgments into

coordinated action. Leaders interpret information. Teams evaluate evidence. Institutions establish priorities. Resources are allocated. Policies are implemented. Strategies are pursued.

At that scale, a small overstatement can become a major initiative. A weak inference can become organizational policy. A tentative conclusion can harden into institutional certainty. The larger the system, the farther a commitment can travel once it has been formed.

For example, an organization may treat a tentative trend as a strategic certainty. Resources are redirected. Plans are reorganized. If the trend fades, the commitment may outlast the support that originally justified it.

This does not mean organizations should avoid commitment.

Organizations often must act.

The question is whether action remains connected to the support available.

At social scale, the stakes become even more visible. Public discourse often unfolds amid incomplete evidence, competing interpretations, emotional pressure, and institutional incentives. Claims spread. Narratives harden. Policies are proposed. Resources are distributed. Public trust rises or falls.

In such settings, disproportionate commitment can create disproportionate

consequences.

A claim carried beyond its support may shape public reaction. A causal explanation asserted too strongly may influence policy. A partial truth may become a total account. A justified concern may become an unjustified certainty. None of this requires bad faith. It requires only that commitment move faster or farther than support can responsibly bear.

Nor is disproportionate commitment made disciplined simply because the eventual outcome happens to be favorable. A conclusion may be lucky and still be overclaimed. WhyDive's concern is not only whether an action later appears to have worked. Its concern is whether the commitment that guided action was proportionate to the support available at the time.

Proportionality is therefore not a call for hesitation.

It is not a demand that people wait for perfect knowledge.

It is not a refusal to act under uncertainty.

Human beings frequently must act before certainty is available. Leaders must decide. Families must choose. Institutions must respond. Communities must move. The discipline of proportionality does not eliminate that burden.

It asks how commitment should be formed when that burden cannot be avoided.

- How much confidence is warranted?
- How settled should the conclusion be?
- How broadly should it be applied?
- How strongly should it be communicated?
- What action does the evidence support?
- What uncertainty remains?

These questions do not remove judgment. They discipline it. They help keep the movement from evidence to action visible at the moment when visibility matters most.

This is why WhyDive's concern is practical rather than merely analytical. The framework is not interested in proportionality as an abstract ideal detached from life. It is interested in proportionality because judgments guide actions, and actions carry consequences.

This point should not be overstated. Human flourishing is larger than evidence.

It involves values, character, responsibility, purpose, relationship, culture, and many realities beyond the scope of this whitepaper. WhyDive does not claim that proportionality alone produces flourishing.

But the quality of human life is shaped, in part, by the quality of the judgments that precede action.

If judgments are formed with too little regard for support, the actions built on them may become unstable, excessive, misplaced, or unjustified. If judgments remain attentive to support and limitation, action can proceed with greater discipline about what is known, what is uncertain, and what should follow.

That is why proportionality matters.

Judgment is a location.

Proportionality is the principle.

Consequences are the reason the principle cannot remain theoretical.

08

The Road Ahead

This section demonstrates restraint.

STATUS	PRIMARY RISK	NEXT WORK	GOVERN RULE
Proposed framework	Self-overclaiming	Reliability	Same standard

A framework committed to proportionality must apply the same standard to itself.

The Road Ahead

If WhyDive asks others to avoid overclaiming, it must avoid overclaiming about itself.

That is the final discipline of this whitepaper.

The preceding sections have traced a movement from evidence to interpretation, from interpretation to judgment, and from judgment to commitment and action. They have also named the central danger in that movement: commitment can exceed support.

WhyDive names this family of failures overclaiming. It proposes proportionality as the governing concern: commitment should remain proportionate to evidential support before commitment becomes action.

But that proposal does not prove that WhyDive works.

Being informed by research is not the same thing as being validated by research. This distinction is essential. WhyDive is informed by scholarship in reasoning, judgment and decision-making, epistemic cognition, calibration, transfer, developmental progression, and related fields. Those traditions help illuminate the

problem space. They show that reasoning is demanding, judgment is constrained, confidence can become miscalibrated, transfer should not be assumed, and human beings often must act under uncertainty.

That research can inform WhyDive.

It does not validate WhyDive as a system.

The existence of neighboring scholarship does not establish that WhyDive improves judgment. It does not establish that WhyDive improves decision quality. It does not establish that WhyDive improves educational outcomes. It does not establish that WhyDive transfers across domains. It does not establish that every developmental or evaluative structure within the framework has been empirically confirmed.

Those are not conclusions this whitepaper is entitled to claim.

They are questions for future inquiry.

A framework committed to proportionality must apply the same standard to itself.

For that reason, WhyDive should be understood at this stage as a proposed framework, not as a completed validation claim. Its contribution is conceptual and

practical: it makes the movement from evidence to action more visible, gives language to the relationship between support and commitment, identifies overclaiming as a recurring failure, and places proportionality at the center of disciplined judgment.

These propositions may prove useful.

Their usefulness remains subject to examination.

That examination should proceed in order. Before WhyDive can responsibly make strong claims about effectiveness, it must first ask more basic questions about reliability. Can different evaluators apply the framework consistently? Can its distinctions be used without drifting into vague impression? Can its categories be recognized across examples with enough stability to support further study? Can its language help identify where commitment has outrun support without merely replacing one subjective judgment with another?

These questions may sound preliminary.

They are.

But preliminary questions are not minor questions. A framework that cannot be applied reliably cannot yet support stronger claims about outcomes. If WhyDive is to remain faithful to its own standard, it must earn the right to make larger claims by first answering smaller

ones carefully.

The road ahead is therefore not a road of assertion.

It is a road of disciplined development.

That development includes source verification, so that scholarship is used accurately and not made to say more than it says. It includes reliability work, so that the framework's evaluative distinctions can be tested for consistency. It includes applied use, so that the framework can encounter real examples, edge cases, and objections. It includes future empirical work, so that claims about judgment quality, decision quality, learning, transfer, and outcomes can be tested rather than assumed.

None of this weakens the framework.

It strengthens the posture from which the framework should proceed.

WhyDive is not presented here as a doctrine to be accepted. It is not offered as a final answer to the challenges of judgment. It is not a promise that uncertainty can be eliminated or that human beings can be made immune to overclaiming.

It is offered as a framework to be examined, criticized, refined, tested, and, where necessary, corrected.

That posture matters because the problem WhyDive names is not outside the

framework. It is a problem that can appear inside any framework, including this one. A system concerned with overclaiming can overclaim. A project concerned with proportionality can become disproportionate in its own claims. A language designed to discipline judgment can become another way of sounding more certain than the evidence allows.

WhyDive must therefore remain subject to the question it asks.

Is the commitment proportionate to the support available?

That question applies to individuals. It applies to organizations. It applies to institutions. It applies to public claims, educational designs, research programs, and frameworks for judgment.

It also applies here.

The claim of this whitepaper is not that WhyDive has solved the problem of judgment. The claim is that the movement from evidence to action deserves greater visibility and discipline, and that proportionality between evidential support and commitment is a useful way to begin that work.

Human beings will continue to act under uncertainty.

Evidence will remain incomplete.

Reasoning will remain necessary.

Judgment will remain unavoidable.

Consequences will continue to follow from the commitments people form.

The challenge is not to escape uncertainty. The challenge is to form commitments with appropriate regard for what the evidence supports, what it does not support, and what may follow when judgment becomes action.

WhyDive exists because that challenge appears repeatedly across domains of human life.

For now, it offers a framework for asking one disciplined question:

Are our commitments proportionate to the support available before those commitments become action?

The Road Ahead Is Disciplined Development

The final anchor should slow the paper down and clarify that the framework's next step is validation, not triumph.

01 Source Verification

Scholarship must be used accurately and not made to say more than it says.

02 Reliability Work

Evaluative distinctions must be applied consistently before stronger claims are made.

03 Applied Use

The framework must encounter real examples, edge cases, and objections.

04 Empirical Study

Claims about judgment quality, decision quality, and outcomes must be tested.

05 Transfer Claims

Cross-domain usefulness remains a question for future inquiry.

BOUNDARY NOTE

Being informed by research is not the same thing as being validated by research.

09

Conclusion

This final movement synthesizes the argument and leaves the reader with the governing question.

FINAL MOVE	KEY VARIABLE	POSTURE	EXIT QUESTION
Synthesis	Commitment	Restraint	Proportionate?

Are our commitments proportionate to the support available before those commitments become action?

Conclusion

WhyDive begins from a simple observation: human beings do not act directly from evidence.

Evidence matters, but evidence does not interpret itself, weigh itself, decide its own meaning, or determine its own consequence. Human beings do that work. They reason from evidence, form conclusions, exercise judgment, make decisions, and act. Along the way, uncertainty remains. Time matters. Pressure intervenes. Consequences follow.

This whitepaper has argued that the movement from evidence to action deserves greater visibility because it is within that movement that commitment forms. Evidence provides inputs. Reasoning evaluates possibilities. Judgment determines commitment. Decisions and actions carry that commitment into the world.

The central danger is overclaiming.

Overclaiming occurs when commitment exceeds evidential support. A conclusion may become more certain, more general, more causal, more actionable, or more forcefully communicated than the available evidence warrants. The problem is not only whether the conclusion eventually turns

out to be right or wrong. The problem is whether the commitment formed at the time was proportionate to the support available.

WhyDive proposes proportionality as the organizing principle for addressing that danger.

This is not a demand for perfect certainty. It is not a call to hesitation, passivity, or endless analysis. Human beings often must act before certainty is complete. The question is how they form commitment under those conditions. How much confidence is warranted? How broadly should a claim be applied? How strongly should it be communicated? What action does the evidence support? What uncertainty remains?

WhyDive is offered as a framework for asking those questions more deliberately. Its contribution is not that it eliminates judgment, replaces reasoning, or guarantees better outcomes. Its contribution is to make the support-to-commitment relationship visible so that judgment can be examined before it becomes action.

The framework must also remain subject to its own discipline. Existing research can

inform WhyDive, but it does not validate WhyDive as a system. Claims about effectiveness, transfer, decision quality, educational outcomes, or developmental validity require future empirical work. A framework committed to proportionality must not claim more for itself than its evidence supports.

That restraint is not a weakness of the framework.

It is part of the framework.

WhyDive exists because people, organizations, institutions, and communities will continue to act under uncertainty. The challenge is not to

escape that condition. The challenge is to keep evidence, reasoning, judgment, commitment, and consequence in view while acting within it.

Evidence provides support. Commitment places weight on that support. The discipline WhyDive proposes is to keep the weight proportionate to what the support can bear.

The question with which WhyDive leaves the reader is therefore the same question it must continue to ask of itself:

Are our commitments proportionate to the support available before those commitments become action?

10

Bibliography

This section supports credibility while preserving verification posture.

STATUS	USE	LIMIT	NEXT STEP
Working sources	Research context	Not validation	Verify

Inclusion does not imply that any source validates WhyDive as a system.

Bibliography

This bibliography is a working source set for this whitepaper, WhyDive Framework: Why It Exists. Sources are included to establish scholarly neighborhood, research context, and claim limits. Their inclusion does not imply that any source validates WhyDive as a system.

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Living Spiral Studio LLC / whydive.org / June 2026