Occam’s Razor Decision Tool

Occam’s Razor suggests that the simplest explanation—one with the fewest assumptions—is most likely to be correct. This tool helps compare theories by evaluating how many assumptions each requires and how well they explain the known facts.

## Step 1: State the Theories

Theory A: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Theory B: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

## Step 2: List Assumptions for Each Theory

Theory A Assumptions:

1. 1.
2. 2.
3. 3.

Theory B Assumptions:

1. 1.
2. 2.
3. 3.

## Step 3: Explain How Each Theory Accounts for Known Facts

Theory A:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Theory B:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

## Step 4: Identify Extra Variables or Unknowns Introduced

☐ Does either theory require a new character, event, or motive to be invented?

☐ Does one theory stretch credibility or rely on coincidence?

## Step 5: Decision Prompt

☐ Which theory is simpler and still explains the known facts?

☐ Which theory relies on the fewest new or unverified claims?

Final Judgment: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_