

AREAS TO RESEARCH

THE PROBLEM

What is the history of the problem?

What is the current situation or status of the problem?

Is the problem happening in another town/city/state/county?

Ask yourself who, what, when, where, why, and how. *For example:*

Who: Whom does this problem affect? Who is trying to solve this problem now?

What: What is the problem?

When: When did the problem start?

Where: Where is the problem occurring?

Why: Why is this a problem? Why does it need attention now?

How: How does the problem affect you? The community?

THE SOLUTION(S)

What solutions have already been suggested?

Have other towns/city/states/counties tried this solution? If so, what happened?

Who, What, When, Where, Why?

THE OPPOSITION

What is the history of the opposition?

What is the current situation or developments of the opposition?

Who, What, When, Where, Why?

POSSIBLE INTERVIEW CONTACTS

Make a note of people who are mentioned in connection with the problem you are researching. Search for the contact information, website, or writings of potential interviewees.

TYPES OF SOURCES TO CONSIDER

- News publications
 - Local newspapers / news sites
 - Community newspapers
 - Neighborhood newspapers or newsletters
 - Television and radio news
- Community nonprofit organizations
 - Organization websites
 - Organization leader interviews
- Advocacy organizations
 - Organization websites
 - Organization leader interviews
- Government websites
 - City
 - County
 - State Agency
 - Legislature
 - Committees or Task Forces dedicated to your problem?
 - Law Enforcement
- Town Meetings and Forums (listed on city or neighborhood websites)
- Zoning or construction plans
 - Government websites
 - Construction company website
 - Project website
- Local politician information
 - Government websites
 - Political party websites
 - Politicians' websites
 - News articles about a politician
 - Politician interviews
- Informal community polls
 - SurveyMonkey.com