



Political Analysis Checklist

Political analysis is a process of disaggregating the key players in a community or policy environment, identifying why they care about an issue and how they can influence policies that affect that issue. Once you have taken a situation apart, you can begin identifying key leverage points for your own resources.

What *actors* have a stake in this issue?

- Paying costs (real or perceived)
- Receiving benefits (real or perceived)
- Formal authority
- Organizational positions

What are the *motivations* or *interests* of each actor?

- Financial or material interests
- Organizational or political needs
- Ideological goals or values
- Social and psychological factors

What *resources* can each actor bring to bear on this issue?

- Money
- People
- Access and relationships
- Expertise (scientific, legal, procedural)
- Reputation, credibility
- Moral Authority

What are the key *action channels*?

- Formal channels
- Informal channels

Which actors can *participate* in these channels?

- Costs of participating
- Opportunity to participate
- Likelihood of success
- Visibility of the issue