

“Five I’s” Policy Analysis Organizing Tool

Category	General Questions
Information – Gather the facts about the existing, proposed, and pending legislation.	What information exists? What is needed? Who needs the information? Why is the information needed? When is the information needed? In what media is the information needed? Who can obtain the information? At what, cost? When?
Issues – Identify the issues involved in the situation.	What issues have a history? What issues are emerging? Who agrees? Disagrees? Are the issues changing?
Impacts – Analyze the likely consequences for people.	Who will be affected by the legislation? Intentionally? Unintentionally? What are the short- and long-term effects?
Implications – Consider the possible effects on people and organizations.	What might the legislation, as is or as proposed, mean to the people affected. Is it targeted? Not targeted? Is there other federal, state and or local legislation? What do other groups and government agencies think?
Imperatives – Ponder the call for action presented by the situation.	What’s the reason(s) for action? Why should we act in a timely manner? Why us? Why now? What might happen if no action is taken?

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