

Analytical Categories: What do I mean when I ask you to evaluate social, political, economic, or environmental factors?

Social Factors: This analytical category examines how people see, understand, and act on the world around them. This is a very broad analytical category. It can include any of the following:

Assumptions made about a particular individual or group's importance in the world;
Established patterns of interaction between people;
Gender Roles (if people's lives, jobs, tasks, are determined by their gender;
Presence of *distinct and separate groups* of people;
How these different groups of people *interact* with each other;
Is one group particularly *dominant* over another group – who is rich and who is poor;
Presence of *religious systems* – how do varying religious groups interact with each other.

Political Factors: This analytical category examines *who* is in charge, *how* this person or group came to be in charge, *how much power* does this person or group exercise, *how do* the people in charge *keep their power*, how do the people in charge relate to and interact with *competitors for power*.

Economic Factors: This analytical category examines *how resources are used*, *who has access* to using the resources, who decides *what to do with resources*, what *motives for profit* exist that might explain behaviors or actions, *what systems exist* that help or prevent people from engaging in economic entrepreneurial activities. (Our system is capitalism).

Environmental Factors: This analytical category examines how the *physical landscape* or geography *both enabled* (helped, assisted or made possible) and *limited* (prevented or made impossible) human activities in a place.

THERE IS AND IS SUPPOSED TO BE OVERLAP between these analytical categories. Some evidence can be placed in more than one of these categories. Environmental factors can and DO affect social, political and economic factors (very unlikely to engage in deep-sea fishing as an economic enterprise in El Paso). Political Factors can and do affect social, economic, and environmental factors. Economic factors can and do affect social and political factors. You get the idea