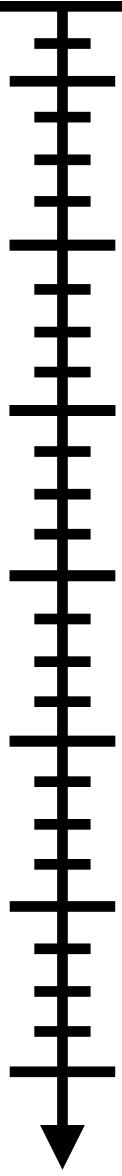


| BACKGROUND COMPONENTS | ELEMENTS OF <i>YOUR BACKGROUND</i> TO THE PROBLEMATIC 'STATUS QUO' |
|---|---|
| PERSONS | |
| EVENTS | |
| INFLUENCES: SOCIAL / CULTURAL | |
| INFLUENCES: ECONOMIC | |
| INFLUENCES: POLITICAL | |
| INFLUENCES: LEGAL | |
| INFLUENCES: NATURAL | |
| <u>FOR ALL OF THE ABOVE: WHAT HARD DATA DO YOU NEED TO HELP SHOW HOW THE CURRENT PROBLEM WAS SHAPED?</u> | |

Now - map it! Use the space on this page to plot out the sequence of elements that make up your background section. Then: take some time to look it over. Is it **sufficient**? Is there **enough** "connective tissue" between background elements to make even a resistant reader acknowledge that the current problem was shaped by these elements? Hint: probably not. Look for the gaps that exist in your backstory. Where would a reader be likely to get confused or lose the thread of the background? Where might a reader feel like something's missing? Second hint: you're sitting in a room full of people who don't have the same in-depth knowledge about your problem that you do. Why not ask them to help you identify gaps & holes in your background?

The Introduction

(which we haven't written and won't write until later) will give readers a *brief summary* of the problem, so you're really starting in the **middle** of the white paper. Which is **fine**.



Next part: the Problem Itself.
The troublesome status quo.
Everything about the problem as it exists NOW (as opposed to the *background* to the problem).