Topic Analysis Questions

These questions are designed to help you start to think through some aspects of your topic that you initially may not have considered. This is not an exhaustive or comprehensive list: it's really just a prompt to start moving you out of your bubble and look at your topic idea from some different angles.   By answering these questions, you are 1.) starting to consider potential subtopics and 2.) putting together potential search terms, both of which will be frightfully helpful once you begin your research sequence.

1.) Who is directly interested?   Who is obviously invested in the ongoing conversation surrounding your topic? Who would be considered an authority or an expert in this topic?

2.) Who is indirectly interested? Who contributes to conversations that are *closely related* to the ongoing conversation?

3.) Who is tangentially interested? Who might contribute to the conversation only occasionally, or for reasons other than those directly or indirectly interested?

4.) Who is affected by this topic? Who has "skin in the game"? Who stands to benefit from the ongoing conversation reinforcing/supporting specific ideas, principles, or positions?   How so? Who stands to lose out or be harmed by an ongoing conversation that reinforces/supports specific ideas, principles, or positions? How so?

5.) Who gets emotional/passionate about this topic?

6.)   Whose contributions are more likely to get heard, passed around, upvoted?   Whose contributions are more likely to get buried, muted, killed off?