

COI Data Collection

Sample questions



Getting Started

Who is part of your community -- **where do they live?**

What are some **meaningful sites** for your community? *Put these on the map and describe their importance. Consider major workplaces, community centers, schools.*

If your community was going to **gather for a meeting**, event, or protest, what would it be about?

Developing a deeper narrative

What are some **common concerns or needs**? *Consider public services, infrastructure, housing.*

What cultural characteristics unite this community?
Consider religion, arts, recreation, ethnic groups, language.

What work-related characteristics unite this community?
Consider industry, employment, socioeconomic class.

How is the physical environment significant?
Consider important water bodies, parks, or forests; historic buildings; exposure to environmental risks.

Can summarize by asking about **culture, work, and the physical environment**, and following up as necessary.

Dos and Don'ts

Do think in terms of residents of an area. Commercial, industrial, and environmental spaces are important, but should be connected to their relevance for residents of the COI.

Don't construct a narrative **exclusively about race or political party.**

Do remember that building a COI out of precincts or block groups will likely not coincide perfectly with the boundaries of your COI. Make the **best estimate** you can!

Don't worry about **answering all of these questions**: focus on the ones that are relevant to your community.

