SOC 300: Introduction to Sociological Research Methods
LAB 9: Documents
04.11.13

Names: _____

1. What is your research question?

2. What type of document are you analyzing?

3. Evaluate your document in terms of Scott's four criteria for assessing its quality.

4. Turn to your document(s). Determine a major issue/topic from your project discussed in the document(s) you've brought. Produce a brief outline that includes relevant actors involved, opinions, or events that constitute this issue/topic. Push yourself to think of all possible criteria/objects active in this issue whether they are covered in the document or not.

   TOPIC: (include a brief description)
   - **Relevant Actors**
     - **People**
     - **Organizations**
     - **Groups**
   - **Opinions**
     - **Positive**
     - **Neutral**
     - **Negative**

5. Go back to your document(s) and look for themes. These themes might be outcomes, definitions, or accounts that illustrate the situated understanding or constructed meaning associated with the criteria/objects outlined above. In other words, what evidence can you find in your document(s) to illustrate connections between criteria/objects and your major issue/topic?

6. Present your findings in the typology provided. In the top row, state your issue or topic. In row two, you can present the theme(s) uncovered in your analysis of the document(s). In column one, consider including the criteria/objects of interest. This will look a little different for everyone but keep in mind that the central cells will always be direct quotes/evidence from your document(s).

7. You may have some difficulty filling in every field from the document(s) you have. What extra information would be required to complete the typology? Where could you get this information?