

Collecting Secondary Data

FACTS

Name of Person or Group _____ Date _____

Source _____

What resources do they have? _____

Money _____

People _____

Equipment, facilities, etc. _____

What do they want? _____

OPINIONS

Why is this issue important to this person or group? _____

What power do they have regarding this issue? _____

What outcomes do they see as a result of this solution? _____

At what stage are they acting on this issue? _____

- Complete this form for each source of secondary information.
- Gather information from many sources.
- Perspectives of individuals and groups may be gathered from: newspaper articles, editorials, TV and radio commentaries, TV and radio reports, magazine articles, voting records.
- Perspectives of institutions may be gathered from: existing policies and laws, existing regulations, traditions, unwritten but accepted procedures, court decisions.
- Look for verification.
- Be sure to account for reporting biases. Ask what underlying point the writer or reporter was trying to make. Ask what the writer or reporter had to gain.
- Look at the dates on secondary data. Perspectives change over time. More recent information may make older data obsolete.
- Summarize all the secondary data on each perspective into a brief perspective statement.