

WHAT ARE CASES?

Cases are the units you are interested in. Anything can be a case. Your cases can be your sources, your nodes, the articles, the people you interviewed, organizations or the mention of San Diego in any of your sources.

Usually a case is something that you want to say something about. When you say, for instance, racist statements can hurt people, your cases are statements or only the racist statements or statements that refer to race in some form. Which one is your case, depends on how you want to approach this problem, but your case will be a statement of some sort.

Usually a case is something you have more of. A case is part of a larger set of similar items. How you define that larger set is crucial. I can be a case of white males, or parents, or sociologists, or a case of people on campus.

HOW DO YOU CREATE CASES

In NVIVO cases are created as nodes. Suppose you have a bunch of sources, interviews, articles, web sites, pictures some of which are about the people you interviewed etc. Suppose you want to make the person you interviewed as a case. Because later you want to know find out things about those people. Each case will be a person.

You can create case nodes for each person. Then you can associate each source with the case node or a part of your source. Suppose you have only one person in each interview source. You can associate the person case node with the entire source (interview file). But if you have several people speak in an interview, you can assign the sentences said by one person to his/her case node and the sentences of others to another person.

First Create → Nodes.

Then highlight the source. Right click, choose Create As → Create As Case Nodes. Choose the person's node from the list.

Or

Open the source. Find the passage. Highlight it. Right click, choose Create As → Create As Case Nodes. Choose the person's node from the list.

Once you created and assigned the case nodes, you can organize them.

Create a node, say, Person. And move all the person case nodes under it.

HOW TO ASSIGN ATTRIBUTES TO CASES

Create → Node Classification

You will see that you can either create a new classification sheet or use one of two ready-made ones (Person and Organization).

Choose Person. Then right click on the case node. Choose Classification → Person

You will see that certain attributes are already set up for you, such as Name, Sex, Age Group, Occupation, Country of Birth.

If you go to the Classification section on the side bar and open the Person Classification, you can add New Attributes by right clicking on Person (the name of the Classification).