SOC 60
Reporting Your Findings

• Being interesting

  – Rhetoric
    • Playing up its importance, size or consequences
  – New Form
    • Why it is novel
  – Metaphors
    • Sustained comparison
  – Generic
    • Seeing it as a special case of a more general concept
  – Ironic
    • Unintended consequences
Economist Arthur Laffer argued in the 1970s that the irony of taxation is that although one would think that the higher the taxes are, the more revenue the government collects, the opposite is true. The unintended consequence of raising taxes is that people will work less, thus the overall tax base will shrink. Taking a larger percentage from a smaller base the government will actually lose income. We know that when the tax rate is 0 (no taxes) the government has no revenue. We also know that when it is close to 100% people will stop working and, again, there is no revenue. This is true for all three curves, but Laffer wants us to believe that the real curve is a. Government revenue peaks at very low tax rates. But the real curve could be b or c. Curve b shows the best tax rate is about 50% and curve c shows it is around 90%. Curve b and c would suggest that we should increase taxes to get the maximum revenue for the government. Laffer’s argument maybe bogus but the irony convinced a lot of people.
Ethics of Reporting Your Findings

- Give an honest account
- Maintain full record
- Don't mislead with pictures
- Acknowledge sponsors
- Avoid plagiarism