

PHI 169 – CRITICAL REASONING – SPRING 2015

MARCELLO DI BELLO – LEHMAN COLLEGE, CUNY

ASSIGNMENT #2– DUE WED FEB 11

In class we looked at the grand jury transcripts, volumes 4 and 5, containing the testimony by officer Wilson and Johnson. You will now look at other testimonies contained in volumes 6 through 18. More precisely, please do the following:

1. Go to the St Louis Public Radio website where the grand jury transcripts are available. The e-address is <http://apps.stlpublicradio.org/ferguson-project/evidence.html>
2. Choose one volume among volumes 6 through 18
3. Each volume is 200-300 page long, but don't worry. After you've selected a volume and opened the file, you'll see a list of notes on the right side of the *DocumentCloud* interface. The notes are shorter and contain key passages in the transcript. Start by looking at them and go back to the full transcript if something is unclear.

NB: you can view the notes by clicking on "NOTES" in the top menu of the *DocumentCloud* inference. You can also open the notes in a separate document or print them out by clicking "PRINT NOTES" in the right side of the *DocumentCloud* interface.

4. Write a 1-2 page summary of the volume you've selected which contains:
 - (a) Description of the witness (if the volume you've selected contains statements by more than one witness, focus on one witness only);
 - (b) Quotations of witness' statements in response to the following questions:
 - (α) How did MB and Wilson interact at first? Did MB reach for Wilson's gun?
 - (β) Did Wilson fire shots as MB was running away from Wilson's car?
 - (γ) Did MB charge officer Wilson? If so, in what circumstances and when?
 - (δ) Did MB put his hands up? If so, in what circumstances and when?
 - (η) Was MB on the ground while Wilson was firing at him?*If the witness did not answer some of the questions above, say so.*
 - (c) Any other information you deem important;
 - (d) Reasoned assessment of whether the witness' statements corroborate Wilson's testimony, Johnson's testimony or neither of the two.
5. Be prepared to share your findings through a short, 5 minute presentation in class on Wed Feb 11 (or the week thereafter if, for some reason, we run behind schedule).