The following format was devised to assist people beginning work in new areas, especially voter registration. It facilitates reporting and understanding of certain historical conditions when protest groups appoint a committee or a person to research the county or counties in which they are working.

DESCRIPTION OF COUNTY

I. Introduction
   A. Write something about how this report was written: interviews, census books, additional material
   B. Write about yourself, your experiences on the field, in the county, etc.

II. Historical development
   A. Current basis statistics
      1. population, Negro and white
      2. total voting age population
      3. Negro registrants out of total Negro voting age population
      4. white registrants out of total white voting age population
      5. size of county
   B. History
      1. when county was formed, by whom
      2. slavery in county
      3. history during civil war
      4. changes under Reconstruction
      5. history of violence in county
      6. lynchings
      7. KKK activity
      8. white citizens council activity
      9. famous case histories of denial of civil rights -- J.A. Scottsboro Boys, Anniston bus burning in Alabama, Emmett Till in Mississippi

III. Economic description
   A. Industrialization
      1. if so, where
      2. what kind of industries
      3. where they are located
   B. Rural
      1. basic crops
      2. seasons of employment
      3. sharecroppers, tenant farmers, etc.
   C. Wages
      1. average wage of whites
      2. what kind of professional class in white population
      3. average wage of Negroes
      4. what kind of professional class in Negro population
D. Primary occupations
   1. of whites
   2. of Negroes

E. Extent of unionization -- if so, what industries segregated unions?

F. Unemployment

IV. Political structure

A. Elected or appointed
give names and descriptions of prominent officials, i.e., sheriff, county judge, tax collector, public prosecutor, etc.

B. Negroes in any official capacity?
i.e., Negro police, fireman, etc.

C. Description of white power structure -- what are the most powerful forces in white community -- who, i.e., newspaper editors, local mayors, county officials, etc.

D. County participation in statewide elections
i.e., does county vote for more liberal candidates

E. White "liberal" community?

V. Social structure

A. Schools
   1. if completely segregated, what condition of schools for Negroes
   2. if somewhat integrated: under court order? parochial
      schools only; numbers of integrated schools and numbers
      of Negro students in schools?

B. Public facilities - description of recreational facilities
   1. completely segregated? if not, which are integrated?
   2. did integration come voluntarily, through I.C.C., by
      negotiations, after demonstrations?

C. Any local protest groups in county
   1. if so history
   2. local leadership
   3. goals of particular protest groups

VI. Patterns of Negro voting

A. Negro voting after Civil War, 1900, 1930, 1960

B. Harassment
   1. techniques: violence, fear, or eligibility qualifications, or both
   2. extent of harassment
VII. Special characteristics

A. Special institutions
   for example, any institution in county which exerted particular influence on county's development -- for example, Tuskegee in Macon County.

B. Economic institution
   for example, steel mills in Bessemer

VIII. Negro leadership

A. Business institutions
   1. stores
   2. insurance, etc.

B. Educational institutions
   large college in area? President's name, description

C. Church influence
   1. how many
   2. what type

D. Political leadership
   1. attempts to run for political office
   2. "Prominent" Negroes who deal with whites

E. Private organizations
   1. NAACP
   2. social groupings

F. Conflicts in community

IX. Role of Federal Government

A. Justice Department
   1. suits
   2. action: pending, finished?

B. Economic subsidies
   1. to schools
   2. to hospitals
   3. military installations (i.e., Turner AFB in Albany, Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, etc.)

C. FBI aid in civil rights suits
   1. investigations -- come promptly after complaints?
   2. action

X. Evaluation

Attach form (contact form)
SNCC Form 102 — Please place it in the mail

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