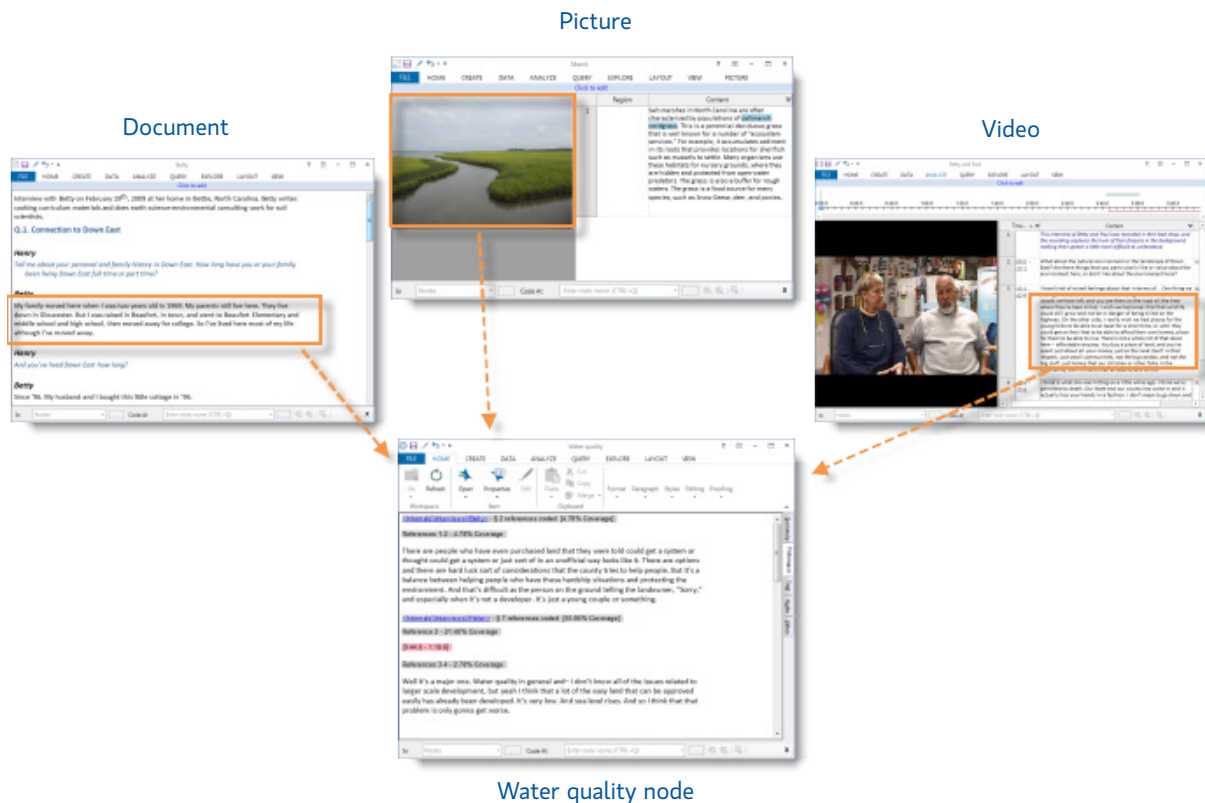# Understand nodes, cases and coding

You code your sources to gather material about a topic and store it in a container called a node. As you explore your sources, you select content and code it at a node.

When you open any type of node you can see all the references in one place— allowing you to reflect on the data, develop your ideas, compare attitudes and discover patterns. Refer to "Open a node to explore the references" on page 34.

Nodes

Nodes represent themes, topics, concepts, ideas, opinions or experiences. For example, you could create the node *water quality* and as you explore your sources (documents, PDFs, datasets, audio, video or pictures) you could code all references to *water quality* at the node.

Document   Picture   Video

Water quality node

Cases

Cases represent your units of observation—a case might be a person, place, site, organization or any other entity.

Cases are a special type of node because you can classify them then assign attributes (variables) such as age, gender or location. As you code content at cases and theme nodes, you can use queries to ask meaningful questions—How do young women respond to the challenge of climate change? Do their attitudes differ from those of older women?

Betty's interview

Betty's and Paul's video

Betty's photo

Betty's case node
(classified as 'person' gender=female,
community=Straits)

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