**Service Learning Team Project**

**Overview**:

You will have the opportunity to participate as a member of a team in a quarter-long service-learning project with a non-profit **environmental organization.** You will also have the opportunity to **learn and practice your primary and secondary research skills** by researching the **environmental organizatio**n you select and one of its key issues. (See list of choices in separate document in Blackboard). You’ll have the opportunity to **provide service** to that organization or participate in other service projects related to habitat and/or wildlife protection or restoration. Finally, you’ll present the information you researched to the class in a 30-minute **presentation** at the end of the quarter and write a **reflection** on your Service Learning Team Experience.

**Background Information:**

“**Service-learning** is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.” For more information and service-learning resources visit these web sites:

<http://www.edcc.edu/servicelearning>

<http://www.servicelearning.org>

**Service Objectives:**

* Volunteer with an environmental organization or participate in other service project.

**Learning Objectives:**

* Identify and describe the functions of the environmental non-profit you have selected (group interaction).
* Work collaboratively with a small group of students towards a common goal (group interaction).
* Make connections between course material and the work of environmental organizations (critical thinking)
* Conduct primary and secondary research on an environmental organization and an issue that is important to it (oral and written communication, critical thinking).
* Present your findings as a team in an Oral Presentation (oral communication).
* Gain experience as a volunteer and realize benefits from it (critical thinking, group interaction).
* Reflect on service-learning experiences by writing an essay on your experience and your group’s collaborative experience in working together (critical thinking; oral and written communication).

**Teams:**

The second week of the quarter we will form teams to work with an environmental organization (see separate list in Blackboard). Please read through the list so you can choose the organization with which you’d like to work. (We can’t guarantee that everyone will get his/her first choice, so please come with a first and second choice). Once you’ve formed your team, you’ll have weekly deadlines to meet to ensure that you complete your project successfully.

**Assignment:**

Your team will be evaluated on both this **PROCESS** -- how thoroughly your team completes the weekly assignments (30% of your grade) — and the **PRODUCT** -- your presentation to the class, including the final Outline and Works Cited. (70% of your grade). Your final grade on the Project will be determined through a combination of this team grade and individual assessments that evaluate your participation, cooperation, and engagement.

***PROCESS:***

**1) Prepare a Team Contract:**

You and your team will prepare a team contract specifying how you will conduct yourselves in completing this project. You will list expectations, responsibilities, and consequences. You will submit your signed contract. For more specific instructions, see the Team Contract instructions on Blackboard (Bb). (5 points)

**2) Interview:**

You and your team will conduct an interview(s) with the environmental organization with which you’re working to find out the following information: 1) brief history of organization 2) goals and mission 3) community outreach.. See Interviewing Strategies on Bb for more information about how to prepare for an interview, including using the organization’s website for background information. (5 points)

**3) Annotated List of Sources:**

This is an annotated list of resources you use to gather information for your presentation. To ensure that you begin your research right away, this list will be due Week 5. You may not end up using all the references in your Works Cited and you might find additional references later. You will be able to keep adding to this list until you turn in your final Works Cited. For more specific instructions, see Annotated Sources on Bb. (10 points)

**4) Progress Report (MEMO):**

In the 6th week, submit a memo to your instructors on how your team is progressing. Discuss how far along the team is, whether the team is happy with its progress and why or why not, how well the team is working together, and what your next plans are. For more specific instructions, see Progress Report instructions on Bb. (10 points)

**5) First Draft Outline of Presentation& Works Cited:**

Once you’ve completed your interview (primary research) and secondary research, you’ll need to organize your information for the Presentation. For instructions on this, see Outline of Presentation. You’ll turn this in Week 8 for our feedback, then turn in your revised Outline (if needed) Week 9. (10 points)

***PRODUCT:***

**1) Presentation, Outline and Works Cited**

During Week 11, each team will share its research findings about the environmental organization and its service experience with the class in a final Presentation. Your team will give a brief overview of the organization’s history, mission, purpose and outreach efforts, as well as an issue related to the organization’s mission, and describe your service experience. Your final Works Cited should have 10 -12 sources (per group), including a minimum of 3 print sources, and should be presented in correct MLA format. (See Group Presentation instructions on Bb.) Your 30-minute presentation will receive a decimal grade and will comprise 70% of your Team grade.

*In addition to the team assignments which you submit as a team, you’ll need to each complete the following assignments. You will be assessed on how thoroughly you complete these assignments and these will be factored into your final grade.*

***INDIVIDUAL ASSESSMENTS***

**1) Service Log:**

You and your team will do a service project with the organization you selected (if possible), OR participate in another environmental organization service project. You will **each** need **to participate for a total of six (6) hours,** keeping track of your service hours in a Service Learning Log. Please download and print out the Service Learning Log from Bb. Due Week 11,

**2) Individual Reflection:**

Each member of the team will be required to write an individual reflection on your Service Learning experience. (See the Reflection instructions in Bb.). Due Week 11.

**3) Self/team peer assessment:**

Each member of the team will be required to complete an assessment of his or her performance as a team member, and an assessment of each team member’s performance. These will be kept confidential. (See Self/Team Peer Assessment instructions in Bb.) Due Week 11.

**Deadline Schedule:**

You’ll have specific assignments each week to help ensure your group is accomplishing its tasks. Here’s a summary of the Service Learning Team project deadlines (also listed on your Class Deadlines sheet):

Week 2: Make choice of organization; Form teams

Week 3: Team contract due

Week 4: Interview Questions due

Week 5: Interview completed (if possible), Annotated Sources due

Week 6: Progress Report due

Week 8: Draft Outline of presentation + Works Cited due

Week 9: Revised Outline of presentation + Works Cited due

Week 11: Presentations, Final Outline/Works Cited/Service Learning Log; Self/Team Assessments and Reflections due.

**Assessment:**

Your grade will be assigned based on a team evaluation and an individual assessment. Everyone on the team will earn the same team grade. That grade can be modified based on the individual assessments. The modified team grade will constitute your final Service Learning Team Project grade.

TEAM GRADE: based on

* the points accumulated for the “Process” assignments (see above), converted to a decimal grade based on the percentage earned – weighted to 30%
* your decimal grade on the Presentation (80%), Final Outline (10%), and Works Cited (10%) – weighted to 70%

INDIVIDUAL ASSESSMENTS:

* completion of your Service hours, as indicated by your Service Log. Failure to complete your hours, or to turn in the log, will lead to a reduction of your own team score.
* completion of the Reflection, with thoughtful reflection and analysis. Failure to hand in the reflection, or to write an engaging, clearly self-reflective reflection will lead to a reduction of your own team score.
* completion of the Self/team Assessment. Failure to hand in the S/T Assessment, or to complete it conscientiously with care and thoughtfulness, will lead to a reduction of your own team score.