

Graduate Research Guide Final Report

1. GENERAL INFORMATION:

- a. **GRG name:** Canyon Prusso
- b. **Instructor name:** Angela Person
- c. **Course number & name:** GEOG 3443—Environment and Society

2. OVERVIEW:

My primary role was guiding students through the process of conducting research in a group project setting. This included guidance on selecting a topic, developing a question, searching for and selecting sources, and formatting and presenting a project.

3. BACKGROUND:

a. Course description:

As its title implies, this course introduced students to issues facing human society as it relates to the environment.

b. Typical students:

All students were juniors or seniors, with most them studying environmental sustainability or energy management. Most of them at least felt that they had a firm grasp on research and writing processes, though it became clear that they had a lot to learn from this project.

4. LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

a. Need for project:

The project allowed students to demonstrate an understanding of the bigger issues addressed by the textbook, as well as the ability to conduct in-depth research about a specific relevant topic. Most students benefited in an obvious way from the extra guidance and rigorous practice required from this project.

b. Learning objectives:

LEARNING OBJECTIVES "Students will understand/will be able to..."
Divide tasks and develop a timeline to facilitate the management of a collaborative group project
Conduct library research, including searching for and properly citing reliable scholarly sources
Articulate and synthesize the results of their research in a final paper
Format written work based on conventions appropriate to the discipline
Produce and present a conference-quality poster based on their final projects

5. IMPLEMENTATION:

a. Activities:

The primary mentoring activity was a two-hour meeting with each group near the middle of the semester. During these meetings, students were guided through the process of conducting research in general and in developing a project management plan for their respective groups. This was done through group discussion aided by a PowerPoint presentation. After these meetings, the students' progress was tracked and guided via Google Docs shared with the GRG.

b. Activity log:

ACTIVITY	# HOURS
1. Research question consultation.	5
2. Research design methodology (general).	10
3. Research design methodology (specific).	10
4. Refining their research process.	10
5. Assisting with the drafting of a final product.	10
6. Assisting with the refinement of a final product.	10
7. Professional development	0
8. Coordinating instruction from other OU units (libraries, Writing Center, etc.).	0

9. Meeting/planning with main instructor of course.	5
10. Other (please list).	0
TOTAL HOURS: 60	

6. DISCUSSION:

a. Effectiveness of research project:

This project opened a lot of students' eyes to how much they still have to learn about research, writing, and presentation at this point in their educations. The project was designed to expose students to some valuable learning experiences in a rigorous yet straightforward setting.

b. Plans for revision:

I sincerely think this assignment was nearly flawless in its design and execution. Expectations were clear and all aspects of the assignment provided valuable experience without busywork.

c. Have any other tips for future GRGs and instructors?

I think that any GRG who wants to be truly successful with this specific project will need to have an exhaustive understanding of the assignment timeline and the professor's expectations. Consistent and focused guidance from the GRG throughout the entire project will make her or him an invaluable resource to both the students and the professor.

7. PERMISSION: Please indicate in which of the following ways, if any, you would be comfortable with the Office of Undergraduate Research sharing this report with others.

- a. I am willing to have this report shared strictly with future GRGs and instructors. We would include your name with your report.
- b. I am willing to have this report shared with others on a public website (on OUR website, etc.). The Office will contact you and the instructor of the course for final approval before publishing content online. *Note: if you are willing to share this report on our website and have any photos of class activities, please email us those photos along with this report.*