

## Final Group Project

Working in teams of 4 or 5, you are tasked with drafting a proposal to introduce a modest public health improvement or other development program somewhere in the world. You have the option of contributing to an actual project that will be carried out by MIT students over IAP, or you may develop a hypothetical project based solely on a literature review. I've identified five possible projects, but you should *feel free to propose an alternative* if you feel you can source sufficient information:

- a) the D-Lab: Waste project organizing waste pickers in Nicaragua
- b) the D-Lab Brazil project
- c) the D-Lab India project
- d) **malaria** prevention in Tanzania
- e) reduction of **maternal mortality**

**The crux of the assignment is to design your intervention such that it will be as legible, sensible, acceptable, and effective as possible for the people whom you hope will use and/or benefit from your campaign, given local cultural, political, and economic conditions.**

On the last day of class, you will deliver to me a comprehensive **proposal to pilot your intervention strategy**. Be clear: you will forward a tentative plan to begin to address the problem (in a modest, not fully comprehensive way), but your **proposal will be to field test your plan**, much as Nations and Rebheun reported regarding the second ORT project. Your proposal will include the following sections:

### 1) Overview of problem and setting:

- what is the problem, from a public health perspective?
- what is the local concern (*if* one is recognized), from a cultural and structural perspective?
- how might these be reconciled or brought into dialogue? if no local concern (from their perspective) is identifiable, how does this affect your planning and approach? how might cultural beliefs and local infrastructure/expertise be approached as a resource?

*note: This section will be based on library research that you conduct. I suggest **Anthrosource** and **Anthropology Plus** (<http://libraries.mit.edu/get/anthro-plus>) as a useful databases through **Vera**. Be sure to cite appropriately. I would like all of you to do some outside reading on your site/problem, although one of you can take responsibility for writing the overview.*

### 2) Proposal for addressing problem through an educational campaign to encourage particular behaviors and/or the uses of new and/or existing technologies.

who will your campaign target (individuals and/or groups; women and/or men; etc. etc.)? how? where — through what venues?

include prototypes of any educational materials (e.g., posters, leaflets, public presentations/demonstrations) that your campaign will use [see ORT article]

keep in mind that your campaign can be multi-pronged; i.e., you can address different constituencies using different messages, tactics

*note: this section should be discussed collaboratively, although one of you can take charge of the design of the materials*

**3) Methodology for field-testing the protocol.** How do you propose to field-test your protocol? What questions remain unanswered from the literature? What would you need to learn in the field to refine your program? How would you go about acquiring that information — through interviews (with whom? asking what?)? through participant-observation (where? of what?)? from gathering data presumably kept by local institutions? This is basically your methods section, and you should refer to (use the lingo of) and cite the methods readings from the syllabus.

*note: again, you should discuss this together, and then one of you take responsibility for writing up the methods section.*

**4) Ethics and Rationale.** Here you discuss how and why you came to plan that you propose. What alternatives did you consider, and why did you shoot them down? What are the limits to your proposal? What of the problem sketched initially are you unable to address here? What further work is suggested? What ethical concerns have you considered and do you anticipate? How will you mitigate these in practice? **Here you should draw heavily on our syllabus and class discussions. Quote and cite our authors.** Show me what you've learned in this class and that you're able to apply lessons from one case study in thinking through another.

*note: again, you should discuss this together, and then one of you take responsibility for writing up the methods section.*

**5) Bibliography.** Comprehensive from the entire proposal, including readings on the syllabus.

Let me be clear: I expect you collectively to discuss the issues and arguments that will go into each of the first four sections of the proposal, but you will each take responsibility for writing one of the sections. I also expect you to draft your portion early enough to solicit critical feedback from your colleagues. That is, you should each review the other sections of the proposal and give comments in sufficient time that the author can incorporate the constructive criticism prior to final submission. I suggest Saturday before the final class as a deadline to exchange AND READ sections among one other.

I will grade each of the sections as well as the proposal overall. Your grade for the final project will be an average of the two.

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