

CSA 151

Due:

group presentation: MW – 4/27/05 TTH – 4/28/05 (last day of class)

individual paper: at the time of the final exam

Points: 45 points

Group project and presentation

This project is to be done in **groups of three or four**, over the course of the last three classes of the course. How the groups are formed will be determined by the class on the first day of the project. There are both group and individual components to this project. Anyone not in class on the first day will not be able to participate in a group, but can receive up to 12 points by completing an individual paper.

For this project your group will have a problem to solve. You will have two class periods to work on your solution as a group; then on the final class period your group will have 5-10 minutes to present your solution to the class. How you solve the problem is entirely up to your group. How you present your solution is up to you, but requires some supplementary materials as described in the requirements.

Anything handed in for this assignment should be completed with a word processor. Hand-written efforts will receive 0 points.

Requirements (45 total points possible)

1. Attendance (0- 3 individual points)

Two class periods are scheduled for working within your group, and a third for presenting your results. 1 point per day will be awarded for attendance. It's fine to work outside of class, but in order to plan a cohesive presentation, your group should meet in class on the first two days for at least 45 minutes. Everyone should be present for the presentation. No exceptions will be made – if you're not present for any reason, you'll lose the attendance points.

2. Presentation (0- 24 group points)

On the last day of class your group should present your solution to the problem. You can elect a single spokesperson for your group or have all or any members as spokespersons. **The presentation must be around 5-10 minutes long.**

Your efforts should show collaboration and be cohesive overall. Don't quickly divide the problem up, go your separate ways, and then come in on the last day and individually present your part. It's fine to work independently on parts of the problem after some discussion, but you should supplement this with the in-class group time to go over the problem, your progress with individual contributions and your plans for creating a unified presentation.

You must have some supplemental materials to help present your solution – use PowerPoint, create a web page, or hand out an outline. This doesn't have to be extensive, just a brief outline of your main points. Hand in to me a copy of your presentation in appropriate format – it isn't necessary to provide a copy of the presentation to the class if you are using PowerPoint or have something visible to the class from the front of the room. However, if you just work off of an outline or other printed supplemental material, then copies should be provided for the class. The presentation will be rated according to the attached guideline, and each section in the guideline is worth 0-3 points:

Not Developed:	0 pts
Minimally Developed:	1 pts
Moderately Developed:	2 pts
Substantially Developed:	3 pts

In addition, 0-3 points will be used to assess your presentation materials.

3. Supporting documentation (0-2 group points)

You must have references to support any dollar amounts that are presented. For example, if you buy computers, you must show accurate prices and reference the source of your prices.

4. Individual reflection (0-12 individual points)

You should do an individual reflection paper regarding the problem. This should be 1-2 pages, double spaced in a reasonable font no larger than 12 pt. It should outline your personal thoughts and opinions regarding a solution to the problem, as well as any observations regarding your group. Part of the rating will come from the attached guideline. This paper is due at the time of the final exam.

5. **Group participation (0-4 individual points)**

On the day of the presentations, **each person should supply a list with the names of all members of the group. Rate the participation and contribution of each member on a scale of 0-4.** These points will be averaged and added to your total score.

Problem

A group of people became fearful of technology in the cold war era and decided to locate to a remote area and "live off of the land". They formed an agricultural cooperative society and have shunned most technology for the past 50 or so years. They do use gasoline powered vehicles and have made some use of electricity generated via solar and wind power, but for the most part use virtually no electrical household appliances, entertainment devices, or other modern conveniences. Some of the members have limited contact with other people, though selling their produce and buying supplies. Their children are schooled together, taught by members of the society.

Over the years, others from outside of the society have joined the original group, people have married and had children, and now the society has 742 members. The current group breaks down demographically as follows:

Age	%	Total	Male	Female
Under 5	8%	59	27	32
5 to 9	6%	45	20	25
10 to 14	6%	45	22	23
15 to 17	4%	30	15	15
18 to 21	7%	52	25	26
22 to 29	16%	118	56	62
30 to 39	19%	141	71	70
40 to 49	12%	89	42	47
50 to 59	8%	59	25	34
60 to 69	7%	52	22	30
70 to 79	4%	30	12	18
Over 80	3%	22	8	14

Most of the original members are now gone or are elderly. The present population has voted to fully embrace technology and become an active part of the greater world. They have spoken with faculty members from several universities, who have obtained research grants worth 2.5 million dollars to help the society make their transition. The society has no plans other than to stay together in their current location.

You are a committee of outsiders who have been formed to advise the society of possible options for their transition. You need to consider how they should best spend the 2.5 million dollars in order to become sophisticated users of technology. You do not have to worry about providing basic services such as electricity, plumbing, etc. Those are already provided for outside of the 2.5 million dollars.

How you will proceed and what you decide to recommend is entirely up to your group. Formulate as complete a solution as possible in the time available. Make sure that your plan is sustainable, that is, will be useful to the community well into the future. If there are things that you consider and discard, note those in your presentation as well as your recommendations. You can make assumptions about the society to form your solution, but these should be fully documented.

One suggestion to get started is to make a list of questions – things like “Should everyone in the society be involved?”, “Should they buy toasters or computers?”, “Will simple agricultural work maintain their new lifestyle”, etc. I’ll be happy to help if you get stuck, but first try to formulate a direction within the group.