COMM 100 Group Project

Student Name:__________________________________________________________

The group project assignment requires you to research and present information on a topic related to interpersonal communication. Where should you and your group start to develop a topic for this project and how should you proceed to develop your topic through research?

The following worksheets are designed to help you successfully complete the following tasks:

1) **Identify an appropriate topic** for your group presentation

2) **Formulate a research question** (directing your area of research on your topic)

3) **Locate information on your research question** (identifying which type of information best fulfills the stated need)

4) **Evaluate the quality of information researched** (determining the appropriateness, accuracy, and reliability of information gathered)

5) **Use the information in an ethical and legal manner** (incorporating sources in presentation delivery and citation in an ethical and legal manner)
Selecting a topic

Where to start? Since this is a group project (and your group must all agree on one topic), the first step is to discuss possible topics within your small group. The potential of possible topics for your project is quite expansive, as the only requirement for your topic is that it relate in some way to interpersonal communication. Your textbook index (pp. 396-404) lists most of the topics we’ll cover over the semester and can help your group identify a general topic. Keep in mind that you are not limited to the topics listed only in the course textbook, as long as your group can effectively relate your topic to interpersonal communication. Once your group has identified a general topic (e.g. culture, nonverbal communication, technology, etc.), you can develop a research question to serve as the basis of your research and presentation.

For instance, if your group decided to explore the general topic of nonverbal communication you will learn from your research that there are many elements of nonverbal communication that impact the interpersonal communication process (e.g. time, appearance, body movement, etc.). While the general topic of nonverbal communication is a worthy topic to explore, it’s too broad for the purposes of a 10-15 minute group presentation. From further research, your group might discover that silence is an element in nonverbal communication and your group might decide on this narrower topic to develop your research question. You might for instance develop a research question asking what is the impact of silence in intimate or family relationships.

A class visit (and instructional lesson) by library staff in the College Learning Commons should also help you acquire research skills and introduce you to institutional resources to assist you with this project.
Selecting a topic - Project Update 1 (Group Response)
In this update your group has the opportunity to identify your selected presentation topic and to explain how your topic will benefit the class’s understanding of interpersonal communication.

General topic: ____________________________________________

Reason(s) why your group chose this topic: ____________________________

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Explain your topic’s relationship to the study of interpersonal communication: __________

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Explain your group’s desired outcome/purpose of your presentation on this topic: _____

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What information about your audience (i.e., your classmates) does your group have to take into consideration, as it relates to your presentation topic? ______________________

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From what you can gather, describe your audience’s knowledge on your presentation topic: ______________________

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____________________________________________________________________
Formulating a research question: Project Update 2 (Group Response)
In this update, your group has the opportunity to develop and identify the research question that will serve as the basis of your group's end-of-semester presentation.

What is a research question? A research question is a brief question (based on your topic) that helps direct your efforts to collect, critically read, evaluate and incorporate the sources required for your presentation. The steps involved in developing a research question include:

1. considering your classmate's interest and knowledge on your topic,
2. reflecting on your role as a presenter of your information,
3. generating potential questions related to your topic,
4. selecting a preliminary research question, and
5. refining that question.

List any potential questions (generated by your group) that are related to your general topic:

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__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

List some possible areas that your group could potentially research that might interest your audience (i.e. your classmates):

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__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

As a group, identify one specific question that might be worth exploring through research, as it might generate a new understanding of interpersonal communication:

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__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
Locating information - Project Update 3 (Individual Response)
In this update, you will have the opportunity to individually identify areas that might need further investigation through research and you will describe your plans to accomplish this important goal.

Group topic: ____________________________________________________________

Group presentation research question: ______________________________________

Describe what you already know about your group’s topic: ______________________

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_______________________________________________________________________

Describe some areas of interest you have in your group’s topic that might benefit your audience, but require further research (due to your limited knowledge on the topic):

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Describe your specific plan (research strategy) to locate more information on an area of interest (e.g., a visit to the College Learning Commons, research from home via the Internet, etc.):

_______________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________

Identify some specific, potential sources of information you have discovered on this topic (e.g. books, websites, periodicals, etc.): ________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________

Describe your plan to record and manage information retrieved from research: _____

_______________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________

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Evaluation of Information - Project Update 4 (Individual Response)
In this update, you will have the opportunity to individually evaluate the quality of your selected source and its use for your group presentation.

Identify the specific source you plan to present as part of your group’s project (i.e., book title, web site name, etc.):

Explain why you chose this specific source out of the possible universe of sources. In other words, what information does your selected source provide to advance an understanding of your group’s presentation topic?

Explain the criteria that you applied to make sure that the information provided in your source is accurate:

Explain the criteria that you applied to make sure that the information provided in your source is reliable:

Explain the criteria that you applied to make sure that the information provided in your source is appropriate:

Explain the criteria that you applied to make sure that the information provided in your source is relevant:

If your source fails to meet any of the above criteria, explain your plans to revise your source:
Use of information - Project Update 5 (Individual Response)
In this update you have the opportunity to individually demonstrate the legal and ethical use of researched information in your presentation delivery and works cited page.

Demonstrate how you will incorporate your researched source (and credit the author of this source) in your portion of your group’s presentation by providing the actual quote you plan to use within your group’s presentation: “______________________________________

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______________________________________”

Demonstrate an understanding of proper MLA citation by providing your source citation as it will appear on your group’s required Works Cited page:

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