**Sadeek Brown**

1. **An explanation of the research that you did during the semester, making sure the research you did is spelled out clearly?**

We were asked to write on the Coronavirus or write on Injustice in America. My team focused on the Coronavirus. In researching the Coronavirus, we were asked to start the project by assessing the people living in our neighborhood. This brought us from my neighborhood and to my group members’ neighborhood. We acknowledge that there was a predominantly large population of Hispanics in most of our neighborhoods. As such, we presented our research primarily in English and Spanish. Our group, called SSCJ Team Researcher, focused on the history of coronavirus. My participation in this research was conducted fully by my effort in understanding the science behind the virus and how it attacked the host cells. The following is our detailed assessment:

Let us first look at the definition of Coronavirus? The word Corona, which means crown, refers to how the virus looks under a microscope. It commonly attacks the respiratory system and causes flu-like symptoms in human. There are seven types of coronavirus which come in two categories: mild and severe. The mild coronavirus causes only a common cold or flu like symptom. Their names include NL63 (HCoV-NL63), OC43 (HCoV-OC43), 229E (HCoV-229E), and HKU1 (HCoV-HKU1). They all have respiratory effects such as the common cold. In the severe category, SARS (SARS-CoV), MERS (MERS-CoV), and SARS (SARS-CoV-2 i.e. CoV-19) weakens the immune system and can potentially be fatal. When we get behind the science of the coronavirus, we assess of the RNA (ribonucleic acid) vs DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) strain of the virus. The RNA virus copies itself by hijacking the cellular enzymes to create a viral replication factory on the cell membrane. Viral replication leads to the differentiation and growth, eventually aging the cell and causing death. The DNA virus does not have as high a mutation rate as the RNA virus and is easier to find vaccine for the DNA virus as oppose to those that are RNA types. The DNA has two strains and the RNA has one strain as it infects the host cells.

The coronavirus spreads easily and rapidly from human to human contact. And finding a cure is difficult. So far, the solution to stopping the spread of coronavirus is social distancing. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has doctors working around the clock to find a vaccine to combat the virus, which will take months or even years to solve. The vaccine that is developed must be suitable for human consumption without repercussion on human health. It will first have to be tested on animals and if it is successful, they will make the vaccine available to humans.

1. **An explanation of your participation, including details on who you work with, and your participation in the final group project?**

I have provided guidance and material to support the group effort around this project. I also motivate the team members and push for timely submission of the tasks assigned. To date, I have written most of the work and have coordinated with the rest of the team to review and consolidate our efforts. I compiled the history on coronavirus. It was challenging to read through all the data, but I summarized the research and gave good insight as contribution to the group project. I also worked in collaboration with PPP Coordinators Group which consist of two members, Gen Li and Jun Lui. While my focus was on the history of coronavirus, the rest of the team members separately focused on Protection, Prevention, and Perspectives (PPP). We have worked to pool our findings together to give a detailed understanding of the virus, which talks about the three P’s .i.e. how to protect yourself from catching the virus.

PPP Coordinators has created a website to get their message across to the residents of New York, especially on how to protect and prevent themselves from catching the virus. I used the opportunity to add my findings to their website to give the readers an overview of the term coronavirus, where and when it started, and the symptoms associated with the virus. My other team members will also post on the website a pamphlet and video. Samay and Christopher worked on the pamphlet. The video was done by Joel, and we communicated with the PPP Coordinators to upload our work on the website. Both the video and pamphlet were done in English and Spanish because we are aware of multi-cultural communities, which is home to a largely Hispanic population.

1. **Your log/journal with dates**.

My journal and summary (date and time of my research will be at the end of my summary)

On May 31st, 2020 Professor Barlow ask us to look outside our window and write a brief description of the people passing, what was the language used by the passerby, and what was their main concerned. These were accomplished on the same day.

During the first week of getting to know each other, Professor Barlow put us in groups of two. I exchange phone number with Christopher, where we look at the similarities and differences of our neighborhood. We completed and posted the writing on Wednesday June 3, 2020.

The following week which would be the second week Professor Barlow put us in groups of four (4). It includes Christopher, Samay, Joel, and I (Sadeek). We continued to look at the similarities and differences. In which we completed on Thursday June 11, 2020 and post it on open lab.

Now the challenge begins, Professor Barlow ask us to do the coronavirus challenge or Injustice in America to which we chose the former. We shared ideas with the class using email. Our group narrow it down by choosing the history on coronavirus and the different types of coronaviruses. Work was assigned to each members of the group. My duty was to find out where and when it started. It was in the third week of class; I try my best to understand the topic and relate it back to my group members.

Doing the history on coronavirus we team up with PPP Coordinators, exchanging thoughts and ideas which later prove useful for our research. Creating a website where the residents of New York access at any time convenient to then with Samay and Christopher create a pdf pamphlet and Joel making a video which both works shown on PPP Coordinator’s website.

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| **Date** | **Time** | **Sadeek Brown** |
| **5/31** | 8am-9am  2:30pm-4pm | Worked on Task 1 and submitted it on OpenLab  Worked on Task 2 and submitted in on OpenLab |
| **6/1** |  | Checking for updates on open lab |
| **6/2** | 7:30pm | Contacted Christopher for task 2 when the group becomes 2 |
| **6/3** | 10am-11:30am | Started the writing process |
| **6/4** | 9:15pm-11pm | Final work on task 3 |
| **6/5** | 12:50pm-2:20pm | Active in group chat for Task 3 |
| **6/6** |  |  |
| **6/7** |  |  |
| **6/8** | 6:55pm-7:20pm | Active in group chat |
| **6/9** | 10:40pm- 11pm | Active in group chat |
| **6/10** | 3:30pm-10:30pm | Constantly active on group chat |
| **6/11** | 3:30pm-4pm  9pm-10pm | Discussing topics on group chat  Google doc was created with our audience and editing |
| **6/12** | 7:30pm-8pm  8pm-9pm | Task was assigned for each member  Gen Li’s group chat sharing ideas (PPP Coordinators) |
| **6/13** | 2:01pm-2:38pm | Active in group chat |
| **6/14** | 8:30pm-10pm | Doing research on the history of coronavirus |
| **6/15** | 8pm-9pm  9:15pm-9:45pm | Gen Li’s group chat sharing ideas (PPP Coordinators)  Phone call with Gen Li |
| **6/16** | 3:55pm-6pm  8pm-9pm | Doing research on the history of coronavirus  Group chat with PPP coordinators |
| **6/17** | 4pm-5:30pm  8pm-9pm | Research history on coronavirus and types  Group chat with PPP coordinators |
| **6/18** | 12:00am – 4:00am  1:30pm -1:45pm | Researching what is RNA and its purpose  On the phone with Joel |
| **6/19** | 3:30pm-4:45pm  8pm-9pm | What is the difference between DNA and RNA  Group chat with PPP Coordinators |
| **6/20** | 7:30pm-7:50 | On the phone with Gen Li |
| **6/21** |  |  |
| **6/22** | 8:15pm-8:35pm | Planned group text chat to share progress |
| **6/23** | 1:30am-4am  8pm-9pm | Continue researching  met up in a group chat with PPP group |
| **6/24** | 3:30pm-6pm  8pm-9pm | Editing my work  Group chat with Gen Li |
| **6/25** | 2:45pm-3:13pm  8pm-9pm | On the phone with Joel  Group chat with Gen Li |
| **6/26** | 11am-1:25pm | Final paper |
| **6/27** | 6:30pm-6:42pm  6:45pm-7pm | Send Gen Li a copy of my work  On a call with Gen Li |
| **6/28** | 7pm-11:30pm | Editing final paper to send to my team members |

1. **Last, I’d like you to write me a one page letter where you reflect on the semester. You can include anything you like here, but the point is that I have a sense of what you learned and what you experienced. This well help me interpret your other work and it will help you think about what you can take from the semester and use in the future.**

Dear Prof. Leston,

Technical Writing was an engaging and informative course. I have learned a lot, both negative and positive. Coronavirus is currently the number one trending topic in the world, and this course had students in groups participating in Coronavirus Challenge. While researching the history of coronavirus, it gave me an in-depth understanding of how the virus operates. Throughout the semester, I had the opportunity to learn more about the coronavirus while sharpening my writing skills. I developed an appreciation for and learned how to adapt to online learning. The virtual interaction with the Professor and my colleagues was overall a great experience.

Understanding the nature and severity of the coronavirus and how it affects the human body expanded my knowledge about the disease. During the research process, this led me to focus on learning about DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) and RNA (ribonucleic acid) and how the RNA hijacks the host cells making a replica of itself. While the project was interesting, the research is very time consuming and requires a lot of dedication from team members. Sometimes it took browsing the internet for extended times trying to figure out the right source of information. It also requires reading with understanding and figuring out the best way to put our findings across to our audience and for them to have a better understanding of how the virus operates.

As the semester progresses, I learned how to collaborate more effectively with group members. Everyone had different ideas and opinion at times which broaden my perspective on the work, but sometimes lead to disagreements. Moving forward I am better prepared to work in a team setting and to deal with challenges, incorporate everyone’s input, and bring it to light as one coordinated effort. During the semester, I also gained more understanding of how each individual approach situations. It can be fun when working with persons who share common goals and interest and goal. It gives you that drive to persevere, which makes it rewarding to conduct the research in a group effort and deliver the final product.

With that said, I appreciate the experience the Semester offered. Group work allows us to share ideas that enhance our ability to think critically and allows us to apply the same skills in the future and throughout our career and adult life. At some point, working in any organization at will require me to work with others, as a team, to get the job done. These soft skills learnt on college can be beneficial. One learns how to deal with challenges of some and appreciate the effort others make towards the common goal. It was a semester well spent. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sadeek Brown