**The Project**



This summer will be all about a single (more or less) project that you’ll be working on as a team.

*I know – team projects! But don’t worry. I’ve got some fail-safes built in so that you can stay on track and keep yourselves and each other accountable. This is seriously real-world stuff, the kind of collaborative project your work life will likely revolve around… whether you like it or not!*

That means lots of coordination, so I’ve set up a Slack workspace and team #channels, but you could use Discord or some other form of communication. I’ve also created a set of Team folders on the class Google Drive that you can get to via the OpenLab menu. And since I suspect you’ll probably want to meet occasionally via Zoom or Google Meet or some other video conferencing platform, I’ve set our Zoom room to be available any time you need to use it (I don’t need to be there).

**So what are you working on… exactly?** I’ve created a scenario that a lot of you will run into IRL – researching and creating a proposal either to your bosses or to potential clients/customers or investors. Here’s the scenario:

Your team either works for or is a science/tech company. There’s a problem/issue that interests you and that you’ve come up with a solution for, or there’s a solution already out there, that you’d like to recommend either to your low-tech bosses or investors, or to potential non-tech customers/clients. The problem/issue can be anything as long as it's a science/tech issue. Previous classes have looked at things like

* cloud computing,
* autonomous vehicles,
* protecting against ransomware,
* best-practice ideas for distance learning,
* lowering greenhouse emissions,
* implementing a 5g network,
* dealing with denial service attacks,
* medical device security,
* dealing with phishing attacks, and
* reducing waste in solar panel production.

The problem/topic is really up to your own imaginations and interests. You can even recycle one of these ideas if it’s something you care about, so don’t feel like you have to come up with a whole new thing! It will be yours (and your team’s) no matter what. (We’ll brainstorm these this the very first week via a tool called Padlet, and set up the teams quickly since we don’t have a lot of time in the summer.)

***To create your proposal, you team will do these three things:***

1. **write a 4000-6000 word science/technical research report** about the problem/issue. This serves as your supporting documentation for your proposal in case some other technical people want to check up on you. It will lay out the history and context of the problem, the causes and nature of the problem, and the current solutions or lack of solutions to the problem. The content will be based on professional scientific and technical articles that you’ll research.
2. **create a website** which serves as a proposal aimed at the low- or no-tech bosses, customers/clients or investors. In whatever way you want to lay it out, the website introduces who you are, talks about the problem and how it developed, and gives your proposed solution to the problem. It will also be the place to house your technical/scientific report.
3. **prepare an engaging but professional presentation** for your ultimate low-tech or lay audience that you’ll upload onto your website. Please, seriously, no reading bullet points off of PowerPoint slides!

Yes, it sounds daunting, and it will take a lot of work… and teamwork… to pull it off. But if you’re working on something everyone on your team is interested in, it will actually be fun (at least a little bit of fun!) and potentially very satisfying.

***In essence…*** your website IS your proposal!