

THE FINAL PROJECT: PROJECT DEVELOPMENT– CLASS SESSION SUMMARY – NOV 9 2017

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Final Project Site & Podcasts

- For the final project the class manages a project site on the OpenLab to which everyone contributes.
- Each team has its own page on the OpenLab project site. Each team is responsible for the design of your project and for sub-topics included.
- The page is to include:
 - A link to a 25-30-minute podcast (an audio recording)
 - A podcast outline (Sub-Topics)
 - Images: photos and sketches that are relevant and illustrate the podcast
 - a link to the group annotated bibliography and citations for images included.
- Within the team students will assume responsibility for a sub-topic as well as various roles including audio-sound, graphics & visualization editor, writer/editor, References etc.

Key Dates:

Nov 9 -- TODAY: Project Question and Project Outline

Nov 14: Field trip: Interference Archive

Nov 16: Annotated Bibliographies

Nov 21-23 – No Classes

Nov 28: Draft outlines due

Dec 5: Annotated Bibliography drafts due, continued work on script and testing of technical production

Dec 12: Group Outline and Script Final due – finalize technical production

Dec 19: Final Presentations / Peer Evaluation Final Projects posted to OpenLab / Final Podcasts and Annotated Bibliography Due

Grading and evaluation of final project:

- 5% Blogs
- 10% In-Class Participation
- 35% Site Documentation Reports
- 50% Final Project
 - 20% Project site design, images, and reflection
 - 20% Annotated Bibliography
 - 10% Outline
 - 50% Podcast

Final projects will be evaluated based on:

- Clarity of project concept & central research question
- Organization, design, and technical execution of podcast / project sit
- Extent of research conducted
- Extent and clarity of analysis
- Logical and creative conclusions

How to develop a good Project Question and a good Outline (Based on Badke, 2017)

THE PROJECT QUESTION

- 1) Based on activity so far (Site visits and site reports, Lectures and class discussions prepare a brief summary describing what you already know about your selected topic.
- 2) What do you want to find out? Develop your project question: Find an ANGLE that interests you to dig in deep and analyze the material and/or to discover new areas of knowledge and new conclusions.

▪ **BAD QUESTIONS review:**

- i. There is no question: the project just rambles about the topic in general
- ii. The fuzzy question: it is not defined enough so it is not possible to answer it
- iii. A question that can be easily answered too easily
- iv. A Question that is too ambitious
- v. A question for which there are no answers
- vi. A multi-part question: focus on the most important aspect of the question. Additional parts will dilute your focus and be confusing

▪ **GOOD QUESTIONS review:**

- i. Ask a question that interests you and your team that and makes you want to learn more – dig into a topic and analyze it.
- ii. Create a list of potential questions for consideration and choose three potentials (Eventually you will select one) that interests you and provide an opportunity for exploration. Evaluate the potential questions:
- iii. Is the research question one that is of interest to you and potentially to others? Is it a new issue or problem that needs to be solved or is it attempting to shed light on previously researched topic.
- iv. Is the research question researchable? Consider the available time frame and the required resources. Is the methodology to conduct the research feasible? What methodology are you planning to use?
- v. Is the research question measureable and will the process produce data that can be supported or contradicted?
- vi. Is the research question too broad or too narrow? If you can find the answer with a little bit of research add the knowledge to your knowledge base and search for another question; If the question is too wide try to narrow the topic by asking open-ended "how" and "why" questions.

THE PROJECT OUTLINE

I) The Outline Purpose:

- A good outline is the structure of the paper/project/podcast.
- The outline is compiled of subtopics that state and answer the various aspects of the project question.
- The subtopics serve as a blueprint for your research/investigation and tell you what you need to cover and discover.
- The outline helps you visualize the complete project
- The outline helps organize the project and keep it in a logical order

- The outline helps organize the work and divide it between group members

II) Steps to a good outline:

- Start with your research question – write down aspects of the question and how you would go about answering it
- Develop 5-10 aspects of the question: subtopics you would need to answer to get an answer for the main question
- Review and retain 5-6 aspects
- Organize the aspects in a logical order – this is your **draft outline**
As you keep working on the project you may decide to revise the order of sub topics, add sub-topics; combine them or eliminate a sub-topic – This is ok – the preliminary and the draft outlines are like a road map – a framework for your project – until you develop the final outline.
- The final outline will anchor your project and lead it to completion.

*Badke, W. B. (2017) *Research strategies: Finding your way through the information fog*. New York: iUniverse, Inc. PP. 55-66; 280-304