

Honors 101: Social Action Project Dr. Gorelick

In light of the national tragedy that occurred on September 11th, 2001, I would like to have students design (either independently or in groups no larger than 3 people) a social action project which you will carry out during this semester. The project should attempt to offer some type of assistance or help to those Americans affected (either directly or indirectly) by the attacks on the World Trade Center and/or the Pentagon.

Various charities have set up funds to collect money for victims and for those who are assisting in search and recovery efforts. Most Internet provider home pages offer links to various ways to help (AOL, MSN, Yahoo, NY Times, Red Cross, etc.). The media has reported numerous individuals who have decided to assist in the effort. One pre-teen boy in the mid-west gathered work gloves to send to fire fighters and police in NYC because he saw they were working without gloves. Reports state that the rubble is so hot from smoldering fires under neath the rubble at Ground Zero that workers' boots begin to melt if they stay in one place too long. You may wish to find a way to gather boots to send to workers. You may wish to see what the local United Way, Red Cross, church groups, etc. need to assist others and work to help them organize their projects. You have unlimited potential here to uses your creativity to find a way to help those through social action.

Some Ideas (you are not limited to these):

- Your project can focus on raising awareness and/or money for a specific charity.
- You may choose to provide relief to those in the Pee Dee region who will be deployed.
- Design programming for FMU students/faculty/staff addressing specific issues. Find speakers who would be willing to address students.
- Design documents (brochures, newsletter, pamphlets, etc.) which explain how FMU students/faculty/staff could help someone in need.
- Research the Islamic religion and produce either a pamphlet or brochure explaining the religion where you clear up common misconceptions
- Address why racial profiling is a dangerous issue in a pamphlet/brochure
- Examine how to make travel safer (air, train, bus, etc.)
- Examine the New York Stock Exchange/NASDAQ/S&P 500 to see how to get people to invest in the U.S.
- Examine the pollution that occurred in the WTC attack and how best to clean up the environment in that area
- Examine how to assist children and/or parents in dealing with this tragedy
- PLEASE DO NOT ATTEMPT TO GET FOOD TO SEND TO NYC, AS THAT NEED HAS BEEN MET (you could, however, do something to assist Manna House, a local food pantry, in the Pee Dee)

Project Requirements:

12. You will **write a proposal** (1-2 typed pages) in which you spell out what you plan to do and how you plan to do it. (See proposal directions below.) **Proposals due Tuesday, 10/2 (typed, double-spaced).**
13. You must have some type of writing project that is used in your social action project (brochure, letter to the editor, pamphlet, www page, report, etc). **Written projects should run 4-6 typed pages.** We will devote some class time to workshop your writing projects.
14. **You are expected to carry out your project and report on the results of your social action. You will be asked to self-evaluate the effectiveness of your project.**
15. **You will present your findings** when the project is due in mid-November (prior to Thanksgiving). If you need AV equipment, please let me know in advance.

Basic Guidelines for Writing a Proposal

Use the memo format to write your proposal. Use subject headings and write brief descriptions under each item. Please include the following items:

1. State the subject, purpose, statement of the problem, background, need and scope in the introduction.
 - Subject and purpose—the subject is what you will be doing and the purpose is why you are doing it.
 - Statement of the problem—Generally a proposal states exactly what the problem is that your project/document is designed to solve. Define and describe the problem that your project/document will address/solve. Be care and reasonably detailed. (Example: FMU students need to understand the Islamic religion to be able to assess how religious fanatics operate.)
 - Background—The background section gives the sequence of events that has led to the current problem. Consider what has happened historically. Give a brief account that highlights the most important events, especially ones in the recent past. By doing this, you demonstrate your grasp of the situation as well as provide enlightening material for the reader.
 - Need—Your proposal must show that a strong need for a project/document exists. You have to convince your readers that your work is necessary.
 - Scope—You must state what is going to be covered in your project. You also may want to include what you will not do as well as what you will do. The scope protects you, the proposal writer, and your readers against any misunderstanding about what to expect.
2. State the methods, timetable, qualifications, costs, feasibility, and expected results in the body of the proposal.
 - Methods—Explain in the proposal how your stated plan will be carried out. You must **answer the question how and show that you have the necessary means to complete your work**. This may include technical knowledge, research strategies, equipment availability, etc.
 - Timetable—Provide a general description of your work strategy and its general timetable. Then give specific dates for completion of certain parts/drafts, etc. Specific due dates are subject to alteration as needed, so begin with very early ones, leaving ample time for inevitable delays, snags, unexpected changes, and revisions. In other words, foresee the unforeseen!
 - Qualifications—Establish your qualifications for doing the project. Since this is primarily a learning experience, it is appropriate to admit any weaknesses you have and areas where you will have to work a “learning curve” into your timetable.
 - Costs—Normally, proposals discuss costs (to the non-profit/business and you.) since money is a major concern for most everyone. In this case, costs are less relevant since you are working for FREE! However, do consider costs that may at first seem indirect or incidental (supplies, duplications, printing, office space, and use of equipment, postage, etc.).
 - Evaluation—Include a discussion of how the project may be evaluated. This should include some provision for testing on real or hypothetical readers. For instance, if your goal is to raise money, you can evaluate your success by the amount raised.
3. Summarize and request action in the conclusion:
 - Formal proposals begin with an abstract or summary. You are not being asked to begin in that way, so an abstract-like summary is an appropriate way to end. Be brief and try not to be annoyingly redundant. Proposals often end with a call for action. In this case, you are asking me to approve the project. **Provide a place for your signature and for my signature of approval. Sign and date your section.**