Final Project Details & Instructions

Project Objective: This purpose of this project is to provide students an opportunity to solve a real-world problem, using skills learned in class. Students can then use the resulting product and feedback to implement their solution at their agency.

Project Components

The final project consists of two parts:

1. **Problem-solving Worksheet** – Completed worksheet (download blank worksheet from Google drive) emailed to research.dpsst@dpsst.oregon.gov as a Microsoft Word file (.doc or .docx) by the **Thursday _prior_ to Week 2**

2. **Presentation** – Presented in front of class & supervisors on **Friday of Week 2**

Problem-solving Worksheet Instructions

Using the worksheet provided, you will answer several questions that build on the problem-solving model discussed in class. Answers should be thorough, professionally written (i.e. complete sentences and paragraph format – NOT an outline), and evidence based.

While this is not a traditional paper, we expect you to turn in detailed answers that meet the "Acceptable" or "Excellent" ratings on the attached rubric, potentially enabling your agency to implement this project.

Presentation Instructions

Presentations should be long enough to explain your project, but **no more** than 15 minutes in length.

Use of visual aids is **not required but encouraged**. This could be a slide deck (i.e. PowerPoint, Prezi), examples of materials that would be distributed as part of your project, use of the whiteboard, etc.

Grading

Instructors will grade worksheets using the attached rubric and return them to the student AND the student's supervisor no later than 5:00pm, **Tuesday of Week 2**. Grading is completed on a first come, first served basis. If a worksheet does not pass, it will be immediately returned to the student for follow-up.

We **will not score** presentations. However, instructors and peers will provide immediate feedback, using the attached rubrics.

Requesting Assistance (OPTIONAL)

Send an email to research.dpsst@dpsst.oregon.gov and indicate that you are seeking research, presentation, and/or writing assistance.

Additional Information

Writing Tips

- ***Use the Spelling & Grammar check frequently!***

- Read your answers aloud – this will help identify awkward sentences, spelling errors, and other common writing follies

- Write. Rest. Edit. – After writing your first draft, take time away from it or give it to someone else to proofread so that you can edit it with fresh eyes.

Presentation Slide Deck Tips

- Avoid text heavy slides

- Use slides sparingly - for a 15-minute presentation, five to ten slides are sufficient.

- Fonts (including those in graphs & tables) should be readable from the back of the room - minimum 24-point font in colors that contrast with your background color

- Avoid animations and sound effects

- Use images/videos sparingly - if you need an image or video, use one that enhances your story

NOTE: DPSST IS policy, does not allow the use of thumb drives. Allowable formats include email to instructor(s), CD, and connecting your personal laptop to the projector.

Citing Research

Your project must be your own original work. If you use any text from someone else, you must make it clear you are citing text and indicate where the text comes from. You must also cite any sources from which you obtain data, ideas, or other material. You do not need to adhere to any particular format.

For more information on how to avoid plagiarism, visit
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/using_research/avoiding_plagiarism/safe_practices.html