

Guide for Reflection Piece on Chapter Project in HL 322

Team Name: Lessening Leukemia

- 1. As a team and as we reflect on our chapter project work, how much do we feel our work helped us to meet NMU mission-central concepts of independent thinking/self-directed learning, critical thinking, lifelong learning habits, awareness of diversity, and sensitivity to being productive citizens in the global community? Please explain and give examples.**

Working on this project allowed us to practice our skills of teamwork and collaborative action as we created a website explaining the issue of increased leukemia incidence in Iraq following chemical warfare. This project allowed us to practice independent thinking and self-directed learning as we were required to complete the project on our own time, scheduling time to complete the project. We practiced our critical thinking skills by brainstorming interventions to help solve the problem of undertreated leukemia patients in Iraq. By splitting up the work through delegation and collaborative intervention, we developed skills that can be used throughout our lives and careers, promoting lifelong learning habits. This project allowed us to expand our awareness of diversity by understanding medical issues found in another country. By researching the culture of Iraq, we were able to successfully increase our awareness of diversity. By not being discriminatory toward those who are from different cultures than us, we have developed sensitivity to being productive citizens in the global community, regardless of background.

2. **As a team and as we reflect on our chapter project work, how much do we feel our work helped us to meet the Liberal Studies (LS) outcomes of writing/communicating clearly and effectively, of being able to evaluate various forms of evidence/knowledge, of being able to engage in analytical reasoning and argument, of being able to understand and apply quantitative analysis and scientific processes, and to see across disciplinary boundaries? Please explain and give examples.**

This project allowed us to practice our writing/communication skills by creating a website, using writing to communicate the issue of leukemia incidence and under treatment in Iraq. We communicated clearly by using graphics and language that was easy to understand. We were able to evaluate various forms of evidence and knowledge by researching our topic in various medical journals and research articles, as well as more commonplace website addresses. Our work helped us to engage in analytical reasoning by allowing us to choose a side and a position on the issue, and arguing for the solution to the problem. We practiced quantitative analysis by deciphering relevant statistics and scientific processes, interpreting their meaning, and drawing conclusions from them. Our project allowed us to see across disciplinary boundaries, understanding the need for not only doctors and nurses, but also aid through organizations such as Doctors Without Borders.

3. **As a team and as we reflect on our chapter project work, how much do we feel our work helped us to meet the Social Science LS outcomes of understanding the scientific process (gathering data methods for the project, analyzing the effectiveness of interventions, etc.) as it applies to the social sciences (cultural, economic, historical, environmental and political aspects)? Please explain and give examples.**

This project taught us how to gather information from various sources and combine all of our work to create one project. We had to critically think to develop an intervention to solve the specific issue of leukemia in Iraq. This project allowed us to look at this issue from a different perspective. It allowed us to use the qualitative practice of ethnography to

visualize the problem from an emic perspective and realize that this country does not have the specific technology and medications needed to treat leukemia.

- 4. As a team and as we reflect on our chapter project work, how much do we feel our work helped us to appreciate another world culture? That is, understand another (vs. our own) distinctive world view (values, norms, and beliefs -- culture) and understand how culture is expressed in terms of health issues and understand how factors such as racial, ethnic, gender and class differences affect health issues for a people?**

In reflection, we feel that this project allowed us to better appreciate the Iraqi culture. During our research, we gained a better understanding of how Iraqi culture differs from ours. Additionally, we learned how health issues such as a lack of understanding of Western medical procedures can inhibit the adequate treatment of diseases such as leukemia. Additionally, the distrust of Western medicine can inhibit successful leukemia treatment and can lead to further issue. Culture is expressed in terms of health issues both in terms of risk factors related to lifestyle and adherence to medical treatment. Racial factors and class differences can inhibit adequate medical treatment through a lack of access. Gender differences associated social norms may prevent adequate care related to disease processes.

- 5. As a team and as we reflect on our chapter project work, how much do we feel our work helped us to engage the health outcomes of assessing/identifying a health need in a target population, researching for effective or evidence-based interventions, seeing how the interventions were implemented (administered and managed), and understanding how they were evaluated? Also, how much did we see the need for capacity-building interventions vs just aid-based interventions? Please explain and give examples.**

This project allowed us to assess and identify a health need chosen through research and collaborative interest in the topic. We chose a disadvantaged target population in order

to strive for the greatest amount of beneficial change possible. Through the use of journals utilizing randomized controlled trials with established reliability and validity, we researched evidence-based interventions. We saw how the interventions were implemented through research and brainstorming of the course of action that we wanted both our need and capacity-based aid to take. We researched how interventions were evaluated through an assessment of the related literature on our topic regarding previous interventions. We saw a great need for capacity-building interventions, as they will allow for lasting improvements in the Iraqi healthcare system that will be self-sustainable in the future. Aid-based interventions will also be used to help, but on a more temporary level.

6. As a team and as we reflect on our chapter project work, how much do we feel that we engaged the NMU vision-central outcome of having students engage in a high tech learning environment? Please explain and give examples.

As a team, we engaged in a high tech learning environment by using Google Docs, and working on our project not only together in the library setting, but also in remote areas, when we unable to meet all together, through the use of technology to communicate. Being able to utilize Google Docs was a great tool, as everyone was able to see the progress of our project the instant another member updated. We were able to learn how to use Weebly, as none of us had made a website before, therefore developing our skills in graphic design. Having access to all members on the website was extremely helpful for each of us to work on our own pages at once, rather than only one person having access. One of our group members, Roxanne, made a short video clip with the use of Windows Movie Maker and an audio recording from an iPhone to add a WOW factor to our website.

7. As a team and as we reflect on our chapter project work, how much do we feel that we engaged creative and innovative practices. Please explain and give examples.

Throughout our project, we engaged in creative practices through the creation and editing of a website, as well as the creation of a visual aid (Youtube video). We used innovative practices to brainstorm potential solutions to our global health issue, and chose interventions based on evidence-based research. This project allowed us to develop our creative skills, which will be helpful in our future educational endeavors and careers.