

## **Social Justice Project - 2007-2008**

### **Group Project Component - Focus on Community Social Justice**

**Assignment:**

**Your group will:** investigate a local social issue of your choosing.

- Brainstorm your ideas as a group.
- Explore some of your ideas and do some initial investigation.
- Social issues should be broad enough to allow for flexibility. Avoid specific issues that will restrict you too much in your volunteer work
- Present your early findings to the teacher before settling on an issue.
- Keep in mind that the goal is not to throw money at an issue; choose something that will allow your group members to be actively involved in monthly hands-on volunteer work either on or off campus.

**Once you have an agreed upon issue:**

- **Complete a technology authorization form** and have it signed by the instructor and the Multi-Media Services Coordinator
- **Devise a plan** to completely investigate the issue as a group and assign individual responsibilities.
- **Research potential ways** for youths (of all ages) and for families **to get involved** in current programs designed to address the issue in our community. Avoid the obvious solution of raising money - try to develop ways to actively get involved. Too many groups trying to raise money in the same community for different causes tends to deplete both the resources and the enthusiasm of the community very quickly!
- **Participate in one volunteer activity each month** October through April - these activities may be group activities or individual activities, but they do need to focus on the issue chosen **within** the DFW Metroplex.
- **Develop new ideas** regarding possible efforts to further impact the issue in our local community.
- **Design a school, parish, or community-wide marketing campaign** to encourage involvement in efforts to impact the issue within our community.
- **Set personal, group, and school-wide goals** for involvement in service activities designed around the issue.
- **Tape a 5 minute commercial broadcast** (work with Multi-Media Services Coordinator) to ready to be aired no later than **April 1, 2008**. The broadcast should launch, update or conclude the marketing campaign, depending on the timing of your group's activities and existing programs in the DFW Metroplex.
  - o **Commercials should:**
    - Introduce the Social Justice Issue the group has chosen to investigate.
    - Identify the current situation
    - Identify current programs in the DFW Metroplex which address the issue.
    - Discuss the extent of the issue nationally and internationally.
    - Highlight the efforts of the group to impact the issue.
    - Identify ways for other members of the SMS community to get involved.
    - Include all group members!

While all videos are due by April 1, a group may choose to film and present their video earlier if group members would like to do so. The 5 minute video will count as 1/2 test

grade in English and 1/2 test grade in Literature for each group member. Late videos will be evaluated for credit beginning at 70%.

- **Maintain a Binder:** Each group member should maintain an individual binder which documents both individual and group accomplishments over the course of the 7 month assignment. The binder should be a step by step instruction manual organized in chronological order.

**The final binder should include:**

- o **Cover Page** including:
    - Original and Creative Title for the Project (group members may share a title)
    - Name and section of student submitting binder
    - List of all group members
    - Group's chosen social justice issue
    - An appropriate graphic
  - o **Table of Contents**
  - o **Introduction** - explaining the issue, how the issue was chosen, summarizing initial research, and outlining a plan for the year. Group members may work together on this document, but all members should submit copies in their individual binders.
  - o **Month by Month or Activity by Activity sections** - detailing what took place, who accomplished / contributed what, and incorporating any revisions to the original plan. These sections may reflect group efforts or individual efforts depending on the activities planned for each month. Copies of individual **Monthly Contribution Statements** should be included here.
  - o **Final Draft Biography:** Cover Letter, Resume, Speech, Works-Cited Page.
  - o **Final Draft Research Project**
  - o **Final Draft Annotated Bibliography**
  - o **Conclusion** - summarizing individual and group accomplishments and including a final calendar or outline of all activities. **Included in this section should be a one page summary of the group's accomplishments in table format.** (Again one table per group is fine, but each member should submit a copy in individual binders.)
- **Conclude with a final 5 to 7 minute oral group presentation** in early May, summarizing the work the group has done and the impact each member has had. The final presentation should include a summary and highlights of the groups' accomplishments, and individual reflections on the project with regard to personal growth.

**Questions to consider as you begin:**

What "need(s)" can you identify in the local community?

What is currently being done about the issue?

What else could be done about the issue?

What specific steps could middle school students take which would have an impact on the issue in our community?

How might a "grass-roots" effort in our community have an impact on the issue beyond our community?

Why is it necessary for individuals to take an interest or try to resolve issues?

Why should I care?

Why should we all care?