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OGL 343 Fall A
Shari Gustafson
September 4, 2022

Module 2: Team Videoconference

Team Tucson

Meeting conducted: September 2, 2022, 7PM EST

Team Members:

Sarah White
Amanda Eghtedari
Richard Laureano
Elizabeth Jones
Ryan Duncan



Part One: My Original Concept

For this assignment, I was most interested in focusing on an issue that is related to both public health and environmental issues: the global water crisis. After looking into the issues surrounding clean water, I found resources from the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals for Clean Water and Sanitation (Goal 6: Ensure access to water and sanitation for all) that give statistics to support the fundamental issues regarding the global water crisis. I discovered that lack of sanitation resources is as big an issue as lack of clean water, and often the two issues are hand-in-hand.

Our organization would be concerned with the lack of clean water and sanitation resources experienced by countries across the globe. We would form a non-profit to team up with other organizations researching and funding infrastructure to improve water and sanitation access in developing nations. To raise awareness, we would hand out water bottles at public events with our organization's message and information on how to contribute to the cause. Our target would be everyone, but we would focus on pushing our campaign at outdoor concerts and sporting events because that is where everyone needs and appreciates free water.

Part Two: Team Contributions

The idea that stood out to me the most came from Ryan, and that was concerning the preservation and facilitation of more national parks and landmarks. What stood out to me was how passionate Ryan was about the idea of conserving nature, wildlife, and landmarks. I thought about those who drive out West to see rock formations in the desert that don't necessarily fall under any conservational jurisdiction. It made sense to me that we need to be concerned with the

preservation of such historical locations before someone takes that choice away from us. I really enjoy the outdoors, and I spent a great amount of my youth camping at national parks, so this cause really spoke to me.

Another interesting idea that was presented was gun control, and that was presented by Elizabeth. I felt like that was an issue we all found important and relevant to our current atmosphere in the US (unfortunately). I don't think we all would have had the same beliefs on this issue, but I think we all had the same general direction concerning where we wanted to go with our organization's concerns and actions towards it. I believe that we chose to go in a different direction because it can be such a hot-button issue for society. It is not that my team is afraid of a challenge or presenting an ambitious argument, but we didn't want to choose a topic that would lead us down a rabbit-hole and make it difficult to stay focused on one area of the issue.

Part Three: Our Integrated Idea

Ultimately, our group chose to go with Ryan's idea of conservation and preservation for our cause. We all care very much about the environment, and we felt like it was a concept that would be generally appealing to our audience. Anyone who thinks upon a trip to the park with their family in their youth with fond nostalgia can appreciate the cause that we are trying to support. Even for those who haven't had an abundance of time enjoying the great outdoors, you can appeal to their intellectual side by illustrating the importance of preservation.

We feel that we can present a compelling case that society should join together in preserving what is most natural and dear to our planet. We are already in the midst of a global warming crisis, and statistical predictors for future degradation of the ozone layer are alarming. There has

never been a better time to appeal to the conservationist in the everyday citizen to help us preserve that which is green, natural, and good. We have several examples of conservationist organizations who have laid fundamental groundwork towards preservation and expansion of nation parks and landmarks. Using the research and successful business models from other non-profits, as well as integrating our own unique and innovative perspectives, will help us build an organizational model for success.

Part Four: Key Team Dynamics

One key team dynamic that I observed amongst my group is that we all seemed to have good communication skills and listening skills. Working in virtual teams can be difficult, and we were all working with technology that we weren't super familiar with. Despite those obstacles, our team made great use of our time and contributed feedback that was both indicative of understanding and insightful.

There were points where a team member was expressing an idea and seemed to struggle to express their meaning, and we got to experience some awesome communication. For example, if a team member paused and seemed to be searching for words to convey their idea, another team member would politely chime in and ask, "Do you mean to say that you would want to focus on facilitating a means for people to access information on monkey-pox?" or, "Would our focus be on lobbying for gun control, then?" It never felt as if someone was talking over another team member or interrupting their train-of-thought.

When it came time to vote, we all seemed to hesitate slightly. I think there is always some concern with making someone feel like their idea is not valid because we didn't speak up for or vote for it. We quickly overcame that awkwardness and began discussing the best way to

either whittle down our choices or just out-right vote for a cause. In the end we were all generally of the same mind, and it made the whole meeting feel very productive.

Because we were able to communicate respectfully and meaningfully, we were able to go through most of our meeting topics in a limited timeframe (we had issues getting the ASU Zoom affiliation link to work and had to resort to a 30-minute free zoom group set up by Elizabeth).

The only point we have not really nailed down would be our advertising slogan. Still, we have a group text going, discussion board communication, and we know we can successfully meet in a virtual setting. I am feeling very positive about the project!