

Team Project from Takashi Tsukamoto of the University of North Carolina Greensboro

Team Project

Teams of students will analyze a local community or economic development plan, preferably one focused on an area in the Piedmont Triad Region (you need to get an approval for your project choice from the instructor). Each team will obtain a copy of a plan from a local government community and/or economic development organization that created and implemented the plan at least one year ago. Each team will make a 30 minute presentation on their research and its results in class at the end of the semester.

Content:

The project is a critique of a real-life community or economic development. As such, it should address:

- the extent to which the plan fulfills the functions of a community and/or economic development plan
- the degree to which it describes existing conditions, establishes goals and objectives, develops appropriate strategies, and lays out a plan to build the local community and its economic and employment base
- the degree to which the development plan's individual components indicate the roles and approaches employed, the use of data and the application of analytical techniques in building the plan, the merging of strategic planning and analysis to build the plan, the utilization of development strategies, a detailed project workplan, and organizational arrangement in place to manage the plan
- the degree to which the plan has implemented

After the above analysis, you should draw conclusions about the plan, the process of community input, and the utilization of the plan for decision making. Finally, teams should make recommendations about what else might have been incorporated into the plan to improve it and its utilization.

Data collection:

To collect relevant data for the analysis, team members are expected to interview both staff and community participants to describe the planning processes used to create the plan, as well as to what extent the plan has been implemented.

Format:

The analysis paper should be 15-18 pages in length, typed double space, with interview sources and a copy of the plan attached. Write in such a style that it can be submitted to an independent community and/or economic development commission.

Presentation

The teams will be required to make a PowerPoint presentation (20-30 minutes) at the end of the semester. This presentation will be part of the grade for this assignment.