

Theory to Application: Facilitating Team Work with Out-of-class Assignments

Catrin Mills

Donna Charlevoix

Sara Strey

Eric Snodgrass

Bryan Guarante

with funding from the Office of the Provost
and College of LAS at Illinois

April 27, 2009

Brainstorm and Identify

Q: How do we facilitate teamwork with out-of-class assignments?

A: (1) Get students to understand relevance of class
(2) Create smaller multimedia activities that apply concepts to real world

- **2 minutes:** Brainstorm an “umbrella” idea that applies to the entire course you are teaching
- **3 minutes:** Identify 2 or 3 online activities that apply the umbrella idea

Great Idea: Facilitating Team Work with Out-of-class Assignments at Illinois

How is New Orleans impacted by severe weather?

| | Project A | Project B | Project C | Project D |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | City background -general info (population, etc.) -climate data (high and low temps) | Winter Weather -blizzards, ice storms -impacts on citizens of city | Large-Scale Weather -flood, drought, heat waves -health impacts | Thunderstorms -tornadoes, hail, wind -frequency of each, hazards and safety |
| Weeks | 1-3 | 4-6 | 7-9 | 10-12 |

- Course: Severe and Hazardous Weather
- Course Description: Study the meteorology and impacts associated with various severe weather phenomena, such as thunderstorms, tornadoes, and blizzards
- Theory to Application: The students participate in a team project in groups of three completing online wikis that detail how severe weather impacts a specific city.
- The students become experts on how severe weather works and affects society

Contact Info

Catrin Mills

Teaching Assistant/Research Assistant

Department of Atmospheric Sciences

University of Illinois

cmmills2@atmos.uiuc.edu