

Final Group Project and Proposal

The final assignment for this course is a two-stage service-learning activity involving a proposal and a completed project. Each group will partner with a community organization and collaborate to create some online educational content. The purpose of this assignment is to create an opportunity to test out in a real-world scenario some of the experiential learning theory we have been exploring in this course. The requirements for the online content that you produce are going to be left somewhat vague because I expect each organization to have different needs. That being said, each group is expected to produce something that both utilizes experiential learning techniques and meets a real need expressed by the organization. Below you will find more information about the proposal, the final project, and a list of the six organizations I have arranged for us to work with.

Step One: Pairing Groups with Organizations

Each group must send me a ranked list of their top three organizations of choice by **Friday Feb. 12th**. I will do my best to match your group with your preferred organization. You can select a group spokesperson to send the list to my email: matthewinnisthompson@gmail.com

Step Two: Proposal (worth 15%)

Each group needs to submit a 750-word proposal **before 7pm on March 5th** through a [link on Sakai](#). The proposal should detail the audience you are producing your project for, their needs as expressed by your contact with the organization, and your plan for meeting one or more of those needs. **You must have had significant communication with your organization before completing the proposal.** If I think the project is not fully conceived, I will ask your group to resubmit the proposal.

Step Three: Final Project (worth 30%)

Your group must submit your final project to both me and your partner organization **by April 16th at 7pm**. We will have an informal class discussion where each group shares progress on their project the week before the due date in the final seminar (April 9th). Alongside the final project you must also [submit to me](#) a 750-word document that explains the rationale behind the project, its learning goal, and how it utilizes experiential learning theory.

Requirements

- Send me a ranked list of top three organizations by Feb. 12th.
- Get in contact with community organization spokesperson.
- [Submit](#) 750-word proposal by 7pm on March 5th.
- Share project progress in seminar on April 9th.
- Submit project to both organization and me by 7pm on April 16th.
- [Submit](#) 750-word explanation of project's rationale, also by 7pm on April 16th.

Organizations

Below is the list of six organizations that have expressed interest in working with us, arranged alphabetically. I have included a little information about each organization copied from their website, as well as a link to their respective webpages.

Ability Online

Mission: Provide a social network technology platform that:

- Gives youth with disabilities, parents and professionals a safe, secure and positive online experience every time they log in.
- Removes social barriers and reduces the stigma associated with being different; increasing self-esteem and self-confidence.
- Promotes independence and a better quality of life with learning and skills development.
- Promotes respect, acceptance and inclusion.

Connected Canadians

We are a nonprofit organization that promotes digital literacy skills amongst older adults by providing free technology training and support. We believe that all people should be empowered to use technology safely and effectively to help them engage with loved ones and enhance their quality of life.

Soaring Eagles Alternative Secondary School Program - Ages 14-21

In partnership with the [Niagara Catholic District School Board](#), [Niagara Regional Native Centre](#) launched the Soaring Eagles Alternative School located at the St. John's Conservation site in Fonthill, Ontario. Soaring Eagles is made up of two small groups of Indigenous students (elementary and high school) who participate in land-based learning on site at the Niagara Catholic School Board's Outdoor Education Centre.

The Stop Community Food Centre—Healthy Beginnings Program

From our origins as one of Canada's first food banks in the 1980's, The Stop has blossomed into a thriving community hub where neighbours participate in a broad range of programs that provide healthy food, foster social connections, build food skills, and promote civic engagement. We believe that nutritious, sustainable, and culturally appropriate food is a human right for all.

Healthy Beginnings is a weekly pre- and post-natal nutrition and support program for people who are pregnant and who live in our catchment area. Healthy Beginnings offers information, education, and support through group workshops with opportunities to talk individually with a team of nurses, dietitians, settlement workers, counsellor/therapist, and family support workers. It also provides a healthy lunch, food hamper, food vouchers, and free childcare.

YMCA Niagara Day Camps

YMCA of Niagara Day Camps is looking for outdoor education and/or Environmental Educational program plans that can be implemented within our day camp programs. We are looking for programming that includes mental health/mindfulness activities that incorporate principles of outdoor education/environmental education that can be executed in an outdoor or urban setting based on age groups: 4-5 year-olds, 6-8 year-old, 9-12 year-olds, 13-15 year-olds.

Camp Wanapitei

Canada's premier canoe-tripping camp has been teaching self-reliance and leadership skills since 1931.