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Addressing University Problems Through a Multidisciplinary Approach in a College-Wide First-Year Seminar Course

- a. This assignment is intended to align with the following DQP Proficiency:
- Applied and Collaborative Learning: Students will be able to work in groups to create a research-based, collaborative proposal addressing a problem at the university (Tarleton State University).
 - Applied and Collaborative Learning: Students will be able to apply and articulate knowledge of their academic discipline in group setting. (Assessment Item -
- b. **Background of the Assignment:** This group assignment serves as an introduction to research in the College of Liberal and Fine Arts - First Year Seminar Course (LFA 100) at Tarleton State University. You will divide into groups of four to five to form their research projects. Your group is required to utilize their skills and their academic majors to solve a problem on campus. At the end of the assignment, your group will present the problem and solution in a presentation format to the Dean of the College of Liberal and Fine Arts (COLFA).
- c. **Description of Course:** 16 week long course in the fall semester. 1 Hour Course (in the University's Core Curriculum)
- d. **Preparation:** Your group will meet one time per week to work on the assignment (and virtually) and many of those sessions are in the university library computer lab. One of the sessions focuses on "how to navigate the library databases".
- e. **Description of the Assignment:**
- I. Background of the Problem (at least four sources from library databases). [Week 11]
 - II. Full Explanation of the Problem at Tarleton (at Least Two Paragraphs) - [Week 11]
 - III. How Can the Problem Be Solved Through COLFA? Explain how the problem could be solved through the COLFA group. Take me step-by-step. Make sure you apply each of your group members' majors to the proposed solution for the campus! (Longer Section - One Introductory Paragraph and Bullet Points for the steps) - [Week 12]
 - IV. Potential Benefits of the COLFA Solution (One Paragraph) - [Week 12]
 - V. Potential Negative Impacts of the COFLA Solution (One Paragraph) - [Week 13]
 - VI. Candid, Informal Responses from Each Group Member about the Project. What did you think? (Bullet Points) - [Week 14]
 - VII. Group Presentations for University Leaders (VP of Student Life, Provost, etc.)! & Peer Evaluation of Group Members (**Teamwork Value Rubric**) [Week 15]

Faculty Notes (Items to consider when incorporating this assignment):

- Students should be reassured that they will not be punished for raising certain issues.
- Students should consider presenting their proposals for peers in the Student Government Association as well as university leaders (for potential implementation).

Questions? Please contact Dr. Jennifer T. Edwards (jtedwards@tarleton.edu or on Twitter [@drjtedwards](https://twitter.com/drjtedwards)).