

Spring 2004

## THE JOMC 50 SERVICE LEARNING RESEARCH PROJECT—PART 1

During the course of the semester, we have discussed how advances in new communication technologies have contributed to the growth of an electronic village by breaking down traditional barriers of time, space, and geography. The research project assignment requires you to integrate conceptual and methodological aspects of electronic information and apply them in a gainful manner to an important social issue. Specifically, the assignment requires you to focus on a health-related issue. As some or most of you may know, e-health and telemedicine have acquired particular prominence with the advent of the Internet and the Web. This portion of the assignment requires you to apply your skills as a JOMC student to develop an electronic database of information pertaining to a health issue of your choice.

*What is the role of service learning in J 50?*

1. Provides experiential learning and helps apply learning to a real world scenario.
2. Extends learning beyond the classroom and into the community.
3. Makes a difference—if you are able to reach/help even one person and educate him/her about an important health issue, I would consider your experience in J 50 as meaningful.

*What are the requirements for this portion of the assignment?*

1. First, pick a topic/issue that particularly interests and/or moves you. You have wide latitude in your choice of topic as well as the range of focus (narrow or broad). For example, you may choose to research fairly broad topics such as *AIDS*, *Sexual Health*, *Cancer* to more focused topics such as *AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa*, *Sexual Health of Women in a Post-Taliban Afghanistan*, *Lung Cancer Hazards in the Mining Industry*.
2. Once you pick a topic, educate yourself about it thoroughly. Make use of as many resources as you deem necessary. There is no limit but you should provide an annotated bibliography (a brief description of each source and its relevance and importance to your topic) of **TEN** sources, out of which at least **TWO** should be scholarly journal articles and at least **FOUR** should be electronic sources (this should include a combination of both Websites and UNC Library database sources). When you use Websites, you should try and ensure that they meet the guidelines for credibility, accuracy, and currency. This section should not exceed 1000 words (approximately two pages). **[10 points]**
3. Write a brief article on the topic that you have chosen. Your narrative should include: a) Importance of the issue/topic as well as a rationale for your choice; b) Specific details pertaining to what you have learned about the topic during the course of your research; and c) How the information that you have to share may be useful if put up on a Website (hint: think about who/what your ideal target audience is). This section should not exceed 1500 words (approximately three pages). **[9 points]**
4. Provide a citation for all your sources (**both** the bibliography and the article). You are free to choose any citation style that you want (e.g., APA, MLA, Chicago), but you should be consistent. For each source, you should include name of author(s), title of article, source and year of publication, and publisher information [Note: These are the standard requirements but certain types of sources (e.g., online resources, audio-visual media) may need to be cited differently]. **[5 points]**
5. Finally, conclude by offering some suggestions on how you may assess the effectiveness of this project (once you put it up on a Website). **[1 point]**

This assignment is due at the beginning of class on Wednesday, **March 24**, 2004. Late submissions will not be accepted.