

# Health, Development & Human Rights

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## Donation Project Presentation

**Presentation Date:** Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> during class time.

Your final grade for the donation project will be determined exclusively by the grade your group receives on this presentation. So a failure to present at the above date and time will result in everyone in your group receiving a 0.00 (F/R) for the donation project.

**Instructions:** The presentation should be ten minutes in length. I will ask your group's presenter(s) to stop after that time is up. Your presentation will be followed by a five minute question and answer period with the audience. Your team is also expected to ask questions in response to the presentations made by the other teams.

Your group's assignment is to present a clear decision in response to the topic and provide a reasoned *argument* in support of that decision. Given that your group's choice will lead to a definite course of action, do not recite a list of "possible answers", e.g., "one might say x, or one might say y. . ." Simply present *your group's* decision and defend it. In doing so, be clear about the following four items:

1. The statement of your group's decision,
2. The premises or reasons you are using to justify that decision,
3. The reasons why these premises are plausible and difficult to deny, and
4. The inferences showing how these premises entail your decision.

This is a pretty short presentation, so remember to *stay focused*. It should be clear to the audience how your every word is doing one of these four things.

You have read material for this class that relates to this decision, so your group is free to draw upon any of this material if it is relevant to your argument.

For this presentation, you should not give an extensive introduction. Your introductory remarks should only give a brief sketch—in a minute or two—of the issue and the decision you will defend in the presentation. Do not summarize the argument here. The purpose of the introduction is to give the audience any relevant background information for easily understanding the argument you will present. Furthermore, the audience will know immediately the position you will be defending in the presentation.

The body of the paper should then perform the four tasks stated above. This presentation should have *no conclusion*. That is, there should be no concluding remarks summarizing your presentation or explaining any of the consequences that result from your decision; the presentation is already short enough, so no such summary is needed.

Finally, I encourage you to creatively explore this topic. Even so, while you now have greater freedom in terms of style and argumentative structure, remember that it is your *argument* that must always clear to the audience. Do not let stylistic elements distract from your presentation's primary purpose, which is to provide a reasoned defense of your decision. Entertaining your audience has extremely low priority.

**Topic:** Your group has been given QR 2,000. As a group, you must choose to give the money to *one* (and only one) of the following four options:

1. Against Malaria Foundation ([www.againstmalaria.com](http://www.againstmalaria.com)),
2. Future of Humanity Institute ([www.fhi.ox.ac.uk](http://www.fhi.ox.ac.uk)),
3. Schistosomiasis Control Initiative ([www3.imperial.ac.uk/schisto](http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/schisto)), or
4. Northwestern Annual Fund ([giving.northwestern.edu](http://giving.northwestern.edu)) and/or Carnegie Mellon Fund ([giving.cmu.edu](http://giving.cmu.edu)).\*

Which one of these four does your group select? How do you defend and justify this decision? Why choose this option above the other three? Keep in mind that your group's decision is real and binding: I will donate the QR 2,000 on your behalf to the organization you chose.

Your group's presentation must address the four items mentioned in the instructions to make an argument of its own. There is no where outside of your group to look, nor is there anyone else to ask, for the right answer. It is up to you and your group's members to reflect on the option your group is willing to defend as the most compelling one to act upon. Once your group has agreed upon its course of action, then you all can begin to identify the strongest reasons to offer in support of that choice. Once this is all done, your group can finally assemble all this into its presentation.

Keep in mind, this is an extremely short presentation. Do not waste valuable time with too much build up, overly extensive explanations, unnecessary side-commentary, arguments for positions unrelated to the topic. I *do* expect your presentation to use data and examples in order to make its argument clearer, but keep these brief and tightly connected to the main argument defending your group's decision. In addition, if you are using terminology that a normal person would not understand, then be sure to explain what those terms mean to the audience.

As always, I encourage you to imagine that the audience is lazy, stupid, and mean. They are *lazy* in that they do not want to figure out what your convoluted statements are supposed to mean, and they do not want to figure out what the argument is, if you have not already made it obvious. They are *stupid*, so you have to explain everything you say to them in simple, bite-sized pieces. And they are *mean*, so they are not going to listen to your presentation charitably. For example, if something you say admits of more than one interpretation, they will assume you mean the less plausible thing.

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\* If your group chooses option 4, the QR 1,000 will be donated proportionately to the two universities based on your group's affiliations. So, for instance, if your group is 80% Northwestern students, QR 800 goes to the Northwestern Annual Fund with the remaining QR 200 going to the Carnegie Mellon Fund.

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# Donation Project Presentation

**Milestones:** There will be 5 donation project milestones due throughout the semester. The purpose of these milestones is to encourage your group to do preliminary research on each organization and evaluate their respective merits. With these in mind, your group can make a more informed decision about how to donate its QR 2,000.

Each milestone should be 500–600 words in length and conform to the course's "General Technical Requirements for Written Assignments". Only one of your group's members needs to submit the milestone.

Each should consist of a coherent response to that milestone's question. These milestones are as follows:

*Donation project milestone #1* (due Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> by 12:00PM (noon) via TurnItIn): How would the Against Malaria Foundation use your QR 2,000 donation? Do you think this would be an effective and efficient use of that money?

*Donation project milestone #2* (due Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> by 12:00PM (noon) via TurnItIn): How would the Future of Humanity Institute use your QR 2,000 donation? Do you think this would be an effective and efficient use of that money?

*Donation project milestone #3* (due Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> by 12:00PM (noon) via TurnItIn): How would the Schistosomiasis Control Initiative use your QR 2,000 donation? Do you think this would be an effective and efficient use of that money?

*Donation project milestone #4* (due Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> by 12:00PM (noon) via TurnItIn): How would the Northwestern Annual Fund and/or Carnegie Mellon Fund use your QR 2,000 donation? Do you think this would be an effective and efficient use of that money?

*Donation project milestone #5* (due Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> by 12:00PM (noon) via TurnItIn): Based on your research of your group's four choices, to whom will your group donate its QR 2,000? Why?

Each milestones will be graded pass/fail. For each failed milestone, the final grade for the donation project will be reduced by 0.50 (one-half letter grade).

**Milestone Peer Evaluations:** Each student is required to submit a peer evaluation for each milestone. The purpose of these is to ensure that each group is working together and fairly distributing the workload.

Peer evaluations for a milestone are due at the same time as that milestone, submitted via TurnItIn. Late peer evaluations will not be accepted unless you have requested and I have granted a prior reasonable accommodation.

Your peer evaluations should include the names of your team members and assign each of them a grade following the 5-point scale from page 1 of the syllabus. (You may use up to two decimal places, e.g. 4.55, if that is meaningful to you.) You are free, but not required, to include comments if you feel it necessary to explain your evaluations.

At the end of the semester, I will calculate your average peer evaluation. I will then subtract 4.00 from this average. The result is added to your final grade for the donation project. So if the result is positive, that boosts your grade. But if the result is negative, that reduces your grade.

Failure to submit an evaluation will result in a 0.10 point (i.e., one-tenth letter grade) deduction from your final grade for the donation project.

**Note:** If you are having trouble getting in touch with your team members, please let me know immediately. I will do my best to get you all in contact with each other. Furthermore, if you are experiencing difficulties working with another group member, please let me know immediately. I will do my best to help resolve the situation to everyone's satisfaction. I always prefer solving the problem without penalizing grades.