

HEALTH, DEVELOPMENT & HUMAN RIGHTS

Donation Project

Presentation Date: TBA, during finals week.

Your final grade for the donation project will be determined by the grade your group receives on this presentation. Peer evaluations about you will boost or lower your overall project grade. However, if you fail to be present for *all* group presentations, you will receive a 0.00 (R) for the donation project.

Instructions: The presentation should be fifteen minutes in length. I will ask your group's presenter(s) to stop after that time is up. I will then open the floor for 5–10 minutes of Q&A with the audience.

Your group's assignment is to present a clear decision in response to the question below and then provide a reasoned *argument* in support of that decision. Given that your group's choice will lead to a definite course of action, please 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, reasons, and/or evidence you are using to support that decision,
3. The justification why these premises, reasons, and/or evidence are plausible and difficult to deny, and
4. The inferences showing how these premises, reasons, and/or evidence entail your decision.

This is still a pretty short presentation, so remember to *stay focused*. It should be clear to the audience how each thing you are saying 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. Please cite any material that you draw upon, if you do so. However, please do not waste time with unnecessary quotation. I am primarily interested in your view. However, do not assume that the audience is familiar with this project, so you must explain your argument to them as clearly as possible.

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 your argument here. The purpose of this introduction is to give the audience (who may not be familiar with this project) any relevant background information for easily understanding the argument defending your group's decision. Furthermore, the audience will know immediately the position the presentation will defend. Any further background information is typically best included as needed during the rest of the presentation.

In general, the statement of your group's decision is one straightforward sentence that clearly states the position the rest of the presentation will defend. Do not be coy in stating this decision. Be blunt and clear about what it is. There is nothing with simply saying, "In this presentation, we will argue why we will [your team's decision]". This gives your presentation focus, conveying to the audience exactly what it is they should expect from you.

The remainder of the presentation should then provide your group's argument for justifying its decision.

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 accepting your decision; the presentation is already short enough, so such a summary is not needed. So the presentation should end once it finishes making its argument. You can end, of course, by thanking the audience and asking if they have any questions for you.

Finally, I encourage you to creatively explore this topic. Even so, while you have greater freedom in terms of your presentation's 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 group's decision. Entertaining the audience has extremely low priority.

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

1. Against Malaria Foundation (www.againstmalaria.com),
2. Future of Humanity Institute (www.fhi.ox.ac.uk),
3. Médecins Sans Frontières (www.msf.org), or
4. The Carnegie Mellon Fund (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.

Suggestions: Your group's presentation must address the four items mentioned in the instructions. 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* to reflect on the decision your group is willing to defend as the most compelling. Once your group has debated, deliberated, and agreed upon its course of action, then you all can begin to identify the strongest reasons to offer in support of that decision. 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 your 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 going to assume that you have no idea what you are talking about. This means that you must continually demonstrate that you actually understand the argument that you are presenting.

Donation Project (Continued)

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 at least 500 words in length and conform to the course's "General Technical Requirements for Written Assignments" (on page 14 of the syllabus). Each should consist of a coherent response to that milestone's question.

These milestones are as follows:

Donation project milestone #1 (due Saturday, January 23rd by 12:00PM (noon) via Blackboard): How would the Against Malaria Foundation use your QR 2,000 donation? Do you think that would be a valuable use of your money? Why or why not?

Donation project milestone #2 (due Saturday, February 6th) by 12:00PM (noon) via Blackboard): How would the Future of Humanity Institute use your QR 2,000 donation? Do you think that would be a valuable use of your money? Why or why not?

Donation project milestone #3 (due Saturday, February 13th by 12:00PM (noon) via Blackboard): How would Médecins Sans Frontières use your QR 2,000 donation? Do you think that would be a valuable use of your money? Why or why not?

Donation project milestone #4 (due Saturday, March 12th by 12:00PM (noon) via Blackboard): How would the Carnegie Mellon Fund use your QR 2,000 donation? Do you think that would be a valuable use of your money? Why or why not?

Donation project milestone #5 (due Saturday, March 26th by 12:00PM (noon) via Blackboard): Based on your research of the four choices, to whom will your group donate its QR 2,000? Why? (This last milestone is due a few weeks before your final presentation, so do not worry if your group decides to change its mind later. Please just notify me in advance if you do end up changing your mind.)

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

Q&A Session: At the end of each group's presentation, there will be time for 5–10 minutes of questions from the audience. The presenting group is expected to thoughtfully and respectfully respond to those questions.

Meanwhile, members of the other groups in the audience are expected to ask interesting questions. If your group chose a different option for its donation, this is an opportunity to respectfully challenge to the presenting group. Or, if your group selected the same option, you may raise points for further clarification or justification by the presenting group. (You may be surprised to learn that students most often—and most intensely—disagree with those who chose the same option!)

Group Work: By the end of the second week of class, you will be assigned to a group for this project. After that, I leave it to your group to decide how to distribute the project's work load amongst the group's members. Unless I tell you otherwise, each member of your group will receive the same grade for the donation project.

For each milestone, only one person in your group needs to submit it. For the final presentation, one group member may do the entire presentation, or several group members may participate.

If you are having trouble getting in touch with your team members, please let me know, and I will do my best to get you 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.

Peer Evaluations: All peer evaluations are due via Google Forms, using URLs that I will email to you. Milestone peer evaluations are due at the same time as their respective milestone. The final presentation peer evaluations are due the day after your presentation by 12:00pm (noon).

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

Your peer evaluations will have you assign each member of your group a score in response to questions about their contribution to the project. In particular, you are asked to think about the extent to which you believe that they did their fair share of the work. You are free, but not required, to include comments if you feel it necessary to explain your evaluations.

At the end of the semester, your total score (as given to you by your group) will be compared to the class average. If your score is above average, then your overall donation project grade is increased by 0.25 point (one-quarter letter grade) per standard deviation you are above average. If you are below average, then your overall donation project grade decreases by 1.00 points (one letter grade) per standard deviation you are below average.

Note that it is possible that your overall donation project grade goes negative because of penalties. On the other hand, it is also possible that it goes above 5.00. So work hard for your group and strive for the latter!

Collaboration & Academic Integrity: Please be aware that academic integrity demands that each group work on its own in researching and preparing for its donation presentation.

That said, everyone remains free to discuss the various organizations, share related articles and other links, and so on, via Twitter using the course hashtag **#HDDR16**. However, if you use anything coming from someone outside of your group, please cite that person, e.g., as "From a tweet by @TwitterName" or "From a discussion with Person's Name".

I always encourage you to talk about these issues with your classmates and others. Learning with and from others is great! But I also expect that your team writes its own milestones and presentation, all while being honest about any assistance your group may have received in doing so.