Project Design: Things to Consider

1. Who are your students?
   i. What course: Introductory? Upper level undergraduate? Graduate?
   ii. How many students enrolled?
   iii. How much variation in student preparation for the course?
   iv. What is the expected workload for the course?
   v. Will students work individually, in pairs, or in teams? Will you vary partnerships throughout the project?

2. What do you want students to know and to be able to do in this course?
   i. What is the content knowledge for the course?
   ii. What skills do you want students to learn in this course?
      1. geo-related skills
      2. facility with Excel, Adobe Illustrator, Arc-Info, etc.
      3. working effectively in teams

3. What scale of project will be most effective?
   i. Shorter, single project, mostly completed outside of class time
   ii. Involved, single project, completed both in and outside of class
   iii. Multiple projects within one course
   iv. On-going project that students in different semesters will continue to contribute to

4. What are your resources?
   i. Maps, samples, thin sections, images
   ii. Field sites, virtual sites
   iii. Texts, papers, online resources
   iv. Tools, software programs

5. What are the final deliverable(s)?
   i. Written paper
   ii. Oral presentation
   iii. Poster presentation

6. What are mileposts along the way?
   i. Where can you check progress and provide feedback?
   ii. Where can you make mini-deadlines?
   iii. Where can you get feedback?

7. How will you provide feedback/grades?