

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?