The Group DIS

I. Benefits
   i. Time management
      - alleviates some time demands on instructors
   
   ii. a model for engaging more students in an applied learning opportunity
   
   iii. Students learn how to work together as a team to test hypotheses and problem solve
      - more data can be collected as a group
      - preliminary data obtained from the group DIS can be used to support applications for intra- and extramural funding (QEP and CSURF are sources of intramural support)
      - more students that participate translates into more awareness among students about the various applied learning opportunities available at UNCW

II. Structure. Group DIS can be tailored or structured in various ways depending upon the academic discipline
   
   i. Project should be focused and feasible
      - provide students with an outline at the beginning of the project.
      - what are they going to do and why is it important?
      - what is the hypothesis or hypotheses that we are testing?
      - what background information do the students need in order for them to better understand the project?
      - what is the approach we are going to take to test the hypothesis?
      - what are some alternative approaches that can be tried?
      - how does this work fit into the larger body of research on this particular topic?

   ii. Project should result in a culminating experience
      - examples include posters, oral presentations, poems, artwork, performance, documentary, etc.

   iii. Project should be manageable (instructors and students have a lot of demands on their time). Project should be worthwhile but also feasible in the allotted time period.

   iv. involve graduate students and/or postdoctoral fellows if possible
      - helps with time demands
      - great experience for both the grad student/postdoc and the undergrads

III. Evaluation (assessment)
   
   i. Critical reflection pieces
      - students should write about what they expect to get out of the group DIS- applied learning opportunity at the beginning of the project
      - students should write a reflection piece at the end of the experience or write a few pieces throughout the time period

   ii. Lab report/poem/artwork etc. (discipline specific piece)