

## 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)