

# Public Service Project Information

Math 312, C. Wells

Winter 2018

## 1 Public Service Project Information

### 1.1 Overview

The **Public Service Project** is an extended project that Math 312 students can work on to demonstrate competence in the course. The primary objective of the public service project is:

*Work with a small group of classmates to produce an artifact — physical or electronic — that teaches or informs the general public about one or more of the issues in the course.*

This artifact could be almost anything. Here are some examples of artifacts that were created in past public service projects:

- Comic strips and editorial cartoons about privacy
- T-shirts about data security
- Informational flyers about privacy concerns
- 30-second TV commercials about Wi-Fi security

This project is all about *creating*, and creating something that teaches a lesson or makes people (that is, regular people who are not enrolled in the course) think.

Technically there is no medium that is off limits here, although you are encouraged not to simply write an essay about something. Be creative and make stuff! This is fun, remember?

## 1.2 Rubric for evaluation

The public service project is graded using the YARN rubric that we will discuss in class. The table below describes the criteria for these designations:

Mark	Description
Y	The artifact has both a high level of quality and a high level of instructional value. It shows a distinguished level of impact, humor, cleverness, or artistic ability — it's something that you remember, and whose lesson you remember, once you've seen it.
A	The artifact is competently constructed and communicates a lesson or point clearly.
R	The artifact is lacking in quality or the lesson or point being made is not clear.
N	The artifact has not been completed.

Examples of “lacking in quality” could include the following:

- In a video project, the audio is distorted or the video is blurry.
- In a visual art project, the drawing is poor.
- In a brochure or flyer, the ink is smudged on the paper, or the paper is damaged.

Please note that we are not judging the work on artistic quality as such. You are not expected to create a masterpiece; the webcomic xkcd makes brilliant points about many subjects, for instance, using only stick figures. We only want the final product to be the result of care and attention and not done by half-measures.

## 1.3 Timeline for completion

All of the following dates are on the course calendar; the descriptions next to them below give more detail as to what is supposed to happen on or before those dates.

**Monday, February 5** Finalize groups of 3–4 and begin brainstorming ideas (if you haven't already). (Groups of 5 or more are not allowed. “Groups” of 1 will only be allowed if there are special circumstances.)

**Monday, February 26** Your team is to submit a short proposal (no longer than 2 pages) that describes what you plan on doing. You should talk about the medium you plan to use (a video, a song, a cartoon, etc.) and what your point or lesson is going to be about. You should also ask any questions you have, and if you have requests for things you'll need for your project (cameras, software, audio equipment, etc.) you should make those as well.

**Week of February 26** I (Prof. Wells) will read through your proposals and get back with the team members with feedback and questions.

**Week of March 12** Progress on the Public Service Project will be a part of your portfolio meeting discussion. You are expected to have made some demonstrable progress on this project by this point.

**Week of April 2** Progress on the Public Service Project will be a part of your portfolio meeting discussion. By this point it's expected that your team will be almost completely done with the project and you should have an early version of the artifact ready to show me. I will give some preliminary feedback on your work; the more you have to show me, the more detailed and precise that feedback will be.

**Friday, April 13** Deadline for turning in the artifact that you are creating for the project. Your mark (YARN) on the project will be determined before April 17. If there is an issue that would result in a mark of R or N, I'll notify you immediately and you can have until April 20 to make changes. However again please note that most serious issues can be avoided by having made appropriate progress by the second round of project report meetings.

**Week of April 16** This is the last week of classes, and we'll take time to do a brief presentation from each group about your projects.

## 1.4 Other Notes

- Please consult the syllabus for information about academic integrity regarding the project. Some collaboration between teams is allowed (brainstorming ideas, for example). If you want to collaborate with another team beyond this point, talk to me — in some cases this may be OK.
- Generally speaking, you will not be allowed to change project teams or project topics once you have put in your group's proposal. However, life happens sometimes, and if you have a concern about your team or your project, please consult with me.
- This project does not have a lot of rules governing it, and it would be preferable to keep it that way. So if you have a question or need clarification on anything, please ask.