Okay, it’s time to get started. You’re in your groups and by putting together your evaluation sheet you have formed a contract of sorts. You are establishing the ground rules for how you are to work together on this project. Remember your commitment to one another and put any personal agendas aside.

Remember that the group paper and presentation at the end of the semester are related in that what you discover in the group process of constructing this paper serves as the information that you will use to put together the presentation. More on the presentation in a couple of weeks.

First we need to get to a topic. And this is wide open as long as it can be classified a problem that needs a solution. (REMEMBER that you don’t need to implement the solution, just develop a plan to solve it or part of it.)

What do I mean as a problem? It can be anything that your group views isn’t as it is supposed to be. For example:

- Too many students are binge drinking on campus
- There is an increase in indecent language on television
- Too many young girls are trying to be like Britney Spears
- Students have too high a debt once they graduate from college
- There is an increase in the number of haunted houses in the country

As the previous examples show, the problems can be local or global or anywhere in between. They can be serious or somewhat lighthearted and again, anywhere in between. If your group chooses a “lighter” topic, you still need to do research and treat the project with respect. But what you choose is up to your group.

To get to this topic, you’ll need to do some brainstorming. First do some individual work to see what you come up with. Then brainstorm as a team.

Read pages 293-295 in your textbook to see a way for groups to brainstorm.

Also, this document on the internet has some great tips for generating ideas (http://web.mit.edu/Writing_Process/ideageneration.html). Hang on to this resource because it’ll be helpful later in the process too.

This week your main goal is to make a decision about the problem and make it as specific as you can.

Deliverable: Your group will submit a one to two page group-collaborated paper that does the following:

- Identifies the problem that serves as the topic area for the project
- Rationale for why it was chosen
- Strengths group members bring to a problem like this
- Deficiencies that you anticipate your group will need to address

This project is to be written in APA style. If you don’t have the book on APA style there are a number of online resources that will help you:
There is even software that will do a lot of the work for you:

- APA Perrla (http://www.perrla.com/) Very nice and pretty cheap
- http://www.endnote.com/ (kind of expensive even with a student discount)

Due Date: This is due on Monday, October 3rd at the beginning of class.