

**Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Interdisciplinary and Global Studies Division**

PQP Assignment #1

This is the first assignment for the PQP. It is due by your second PQP meeting. Submit it electronically to your advisor with a copy to your co-advisor. Each team must complete this as a group and submit one report for the group.

1. Discuss the advantages of teams in the solution of open-ended problems. Your discussion should not be context-dependent. For example teams are used in learning situations (courses, labs, IQPs, MQPs) nonacademic environments (sports, service organizations) and industry (design, research, manufacturing)---consider the generic reasons that make them successful in multiple situations. Write a paragraph that summarizes your discussion.

2. Discuss the potential disadvantages of teams. Write a paragraph that summarizes this discussion.

3. Consider the IQP context for this question. Agree on a list of five attributes of a good team member and a list of five characteristics of a poor team member. One easy way to do this is to have each person, by himself or herself, make up their own lists, then as a group combine and reduce the individual lists into the final lists. You should not limit your lists to academic traits. For example "seems to be drinking prior to meetings" or "harasses the women in the group" could be on your poor team member list.

4. For each item on the "poor team member attributes" list describe a remedy or process that might help solve the problem.