

Sample Semester-Long Assignment Generated by ChatGPT

Introduction

AI can help speed up the process of creating assignments by generating a draft structure, timeline, and assignment description handout that the instructor can revise and adapt for their purposes. It also makes it possible for the instructor to generate different topics for the same assignment, which gives students more choice and also reduces the chance of students copying work from previous semesters.

The following semester-long assignment was developed by Balazs Szelenyi in collaboration with ChatGPT. He used the following prompt:

Please design for me a documentary group project for students in a Sociology of Boston class. The students should do research on the history of counterculture music around Kenmore Square in the 1970s and 1980s. Their final product should be to prepare a 10-minute documentary video on the topic. Please create a step-by-step process how students can work together and have bi-weekly updates to professor on their progress. In the project they should place a special emphasis on the music club called Rathskeller.

Balazs edited the output (e.g., adding dates, ensuring accuracy of description) to create this handout for students about the assignment. Note that this is only one of the semester-long assignment topic options that groups could choose from. Others generated that semester included the history of the LGBTQ Community in Boston, the Rise of the Music Industry, and Ethno-Culinary Diversity in Boston.

Counter-Culture in Kenmore Square Documentary Project Plan

Project Duration

September 25th, 2023 – December 4th, 2023

Objective

To capture and reflect upon the counter-culture movement in Kenmore Square during the 1970s to 1990s, highlighting iconic venues and exploring the interplay between art, music, society, and urban transformation.

Project Initiation (September 25th- October 2nd)

- **Kick-off Meeting:** Define roles, tasks, and responsibilities for each group member.
- **Use ChatGPT:** Gather initial information on Kenmore Square's counter-culture movement, specifically the significance of venues like the Rat (Rathskeller) and the general atmosphere of the time.
- Develop a preliminary list of potential interviewees – former venue employees, attendees, local artists, and historians.

Research and Data Collection (October 3rd- October 27th)

- **Deep Dive:** Understand the socio-political climate of the 1970s to 1990s in Kenmore Square and how it gave birth to a thriving counterculture.

- **Use ChatGPT:** To source archived musical performances, news articles, and any rare footage or photography related to the era.
- Visit Kenmore Square for firsthand observations and start gathering personal testimonies from those who experienced the movement.
- Begin collecting archived materials from local libraries, music archives, and personal collections.

Progress Report 1 (October 15th)

Detail venues explored, interviews conducted, and materials sourced. Highlight each group member's contributions.

Compilation and Storyboarding (October 28th- November 15th)

- Organize and categorize the gathered interviews, footage, and other materials.
- **Use ChatGPT:** For brainstorming sessions to create a coherent storyline, melding personal testimonies, music, and socio-political commentary.
- Draft a storyline for the documentary, ensuring a blend of nostalgia and analysis.

Progress Report 2 (November 8th)

Share a preliminary storyboard, discuss challenges faced, and detail the emerging narrative, focusing on the fusion of art, music, and societal changes. Each group member provides an update on their specific tasks.

Editing and Finalization (November 16th- November 30th)

- Edit the documentary according to the storyboard.
- **Use ChatGPT:** To provide feedback on particular segments, fact-check the socio-political backdrop of the time, and get suggestions on presentation or narrative nuances.
- Collaborate to refine the visual and auditory elements of the documentary, ensuring an accurate and engaging portrayal of the era.

Progress Report 3 (November 24th)

Update on the documentary's progress, spotlighting key segments, pending tasks, and anticipating the completion date. Each team member reflects on their continued contributions.

Final Review and Submission (December 1st- December 4th)

- Host a complete viewing of the documentary for the group, ensuring the project effectively captures the counter-culture spirit of Kenmore Square and the subsequent urban transformation.
- **Use ChatGPT:** Perform a final fact-check, ensure that all musical, societal, and historical details are portrayed correctly, and gather any last-minute insights.
- Finalize the documentary and submit by December 4th, 2023.

Note: Alongside group progress reports, students should meticulously document their individual roles in the project, offering a clear understanding of their participation in this dynamic exploration of culture and change.