



One of the themes we discuss in this course is the gap between research and action – be it practice, policy, or design. This assignment gives you an opportunity to “bridge the gap” by creating a useable product or tool aimed at policy makers, designers, educators, or “lay people” in our community. Your assignment is to create a research evidence-based product to address a real health or healthy environment issue in the local community. You will need to connect with a real agency or organization to be your partner or client. The “product” might be an educational brochure, a 5-minute video, a website, a poster, a powerpoint presentation, or some kind of instrument, for example. You should use at least 8 references; 4 or more from our syllabus (integrated with text, succinctly cited and referenced at the end).

Themes could include: “Walk Your Kids to School,” “Contribute to Local Greenway,” “Build a Park,” or “Test for Radon.” The product should be real & useable. Connect with your community contact/ client to determine their needs and how you can meet them. Solicit feedback from your community partner as you develop your product. I can help you to connect with community organizations, so let me know what topics or themes are of interests. Once you find a partner organization, tell me what organization you plan to work with. Each of you will work independently, but in some cases two people (no more than two) might work with the same organization, on different facets of a project. If that is the case, please coordinate your schedules to meet together with the community contact when possible.

Remember, that your community partners are busy people; they may not respond immediately to your queries. Therefore, it is critical that you start early to make connections with them. Let them know your expectations – e.g., 1-2 face-to-face meetings, fairly prompt feedback via email. You might outline your timeline for the project and share it with them at your first meeting.

GRADING CRITERIA:

- Is the information grounded in research evidence? Be sure that research foundation is solid & clear. Remember to use 8 references, at least.
- Is the scientific evidence presented in an accurate way?
- Is design of product engaging and attractive?
- Is the information presented in a clear, engaging manner that is appropriate for the target audience?
- Does the content connect with course content? (Include at least 4 references from course).
- Is this project likely to make difference? Will it truly be used by your client?

DUE DATES

Topic, community contact, and product idea

due Monday Feb 29nd

Science to Action: Bridging the Gap

due Wednesday April 11th

Bridge photo credit: <http://infohost.nmt.edu/~es421/ansys/jpeg/sydneybld.jpg>