

Preliminary Research Description and Group Plan

You are a consulting firm, and you have been hired to conduct research and produce public facing content about the history of Oella. This assignment forms the basis of your contract with our clients AND with one another.

Your Research Description and Group Plan must include four components:

1. Information about Project Personnel
 - a. Choose a name for your company.
 - b. Describe your team members and SELL yourself
 - i. Does each person have particular interests, expertise, skills, and/or traits.
 - ii. Consider giving each team member a title and job description: who is the project director? Who is the communications director? Who is lead author? Which sites will each of you focus on?
 - iii. Does each person have particular restraints or time restrictions? How will you work around these restraints and restrictions? How will you communicate? What will your work process look like?
2. Information about Project Resources
 - a. Your report MUST include a summary review of available primary sources
 - i. Where are they?
 - ii. What are they?
 - iii. How do you plan to use them?
 - b. Your report MUST also include a working list of the secondary sources on which your project will rest.
 - c. The secondary sources should address two sets of questions
 - i. Those related to the history of Baltimore specifically and (if you can) the neighborhood(s) that compose Northeast Baltimore:
 1. Although we did not hear specifically about this today, the history of racial injustice, segregation, housing discrimination, etc. cannot be ignored in the history of Baltimore. Make sure you read relevant histories and understand the ways in which neighborhood demographics took shape over time.
 - ii. Those relevant for providing a broader sense of context AND helping you identify a focus or a series of focal points for your research
 1. Eric Holcomb's introduction to the walking tour today sketched out some broad areas of interest including the development of suburbia, the experience and shaping of "rural" versus "urban" space, business development, education, class, etc.
 - d. Your proposal MUST include a list and preliminary description of physical sites in Oella (buildings, landscapes, etc.) that fit your theme. Each member of your group should have two sites.
3. Information and a Description of How you will approach this assignment:
 - a. Seek to answer this question: What do you understand that the client is asking you to do and what will be the unique approach you will bring to this project as public historians?

- b. Provide more detail and description of the connection between the theme you have chosen and the specific history of Oella. Base your proposal on any observations from the walking tour AND on your preliminary review of available sources and scholarship
 - c. Create an outline of what you expect to include in the group research project
- 4. A schedule with target goals (working backwards from the Report due date)
 - a. Identify the specific responsibilities of each group member
 - b. I recommend that you ALL agree to read ALL the secondary sources you have identified. This will become your group knowledge bank
 - c. Beyond that, however, you should assign responsibilities that seem fair AND take into account the variety of other responsibilities and restrictions each of you brings to the table.
 - d. Make a plan for when, how often, and in what medium you will communicate; work backwards from the group project due date and create a timeline
 - e. What “safety mechanisms” will you put in place? What will you do if the group isn’t working effectively?