

THE TRI-STATE CONNECTOR

Project Diary

Author :

2010



**Building The
Tri-State
Connector**

Week 1

Group Interaction

1. a) Has there been any opportunities for you to help group members who are having problems with the task? Yes/no

b) If you marked yes, how did you help them?

2. a) Have you experienced any help with the task from group members? Yes/no

b) If you marked yes, how did they help you?

Language

1. a) Did you have any issues understanding the sponsor's letter? For example: Grammar; vocabulary; meaning etc. Yes/no

b) If you marked yes, what were these issues?

c) What have you done to resolve these issues?

2. a) Is there any new language (grammar, vocabulary, phrases) which you have picked up this week which you might find useful in everyday language use? Yes/no

b) If you marked yes, give a few examples of this language.

3. a) Did you make use of the hot potatoes exercises? Yes/no

b) If you marked yes, did they help your comprehension of the sponsor's letter?

General

1. What do you feel you have achieved this week? For example: interaction with the group; communication skills; language etc.

2. Are there any areas where you think you could improve? For example: speaking; contributing to the group work; contributing to the discussions with the teachers etc.



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Week 2

Group Interaction

1. a) Has there been any opportunities for you to help group members who are having problems with the task? Yes/no

b) If you marked yes, how did you help them?

2. a) Have you experienced any help with the task from group members? Yes/no

b) If you marked yes, how did they help you?

Language

1. a) Did you have any issues understanding the video meeting? For example: Grammar; vocabulary; meaning etc. Yes/no

b) If you marked yes, what were these issues?

c) What have you done to resolve these issues?

2. a).Is there any new language which you have picked up this week which you might find useful in everyday language use? Yes/no

b) If you marked yes, give a few examples of this new language.

3. a) Did you make use of the hot potatoes exercises? Yes/no

b) If you marked yes, did they help your comprehension of the video meeting?

General

1. What do you feel you have achieved this week? For example: interaction with the group; communication skills; language etc.

2. Are there any areas where you think you could improve? For example: speaking; contributing to the group work; contributing to the discussions with the teachers etc.



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Week 3

Group Interaction

1. a) Has there been any opportunities for you to help group members who are having problems with the task? Yes/no

b) If you marked yes, how did you help them?

2. a) Have you experienced any help with the task from group members? Yes/no

b) If you marked yes, how did they help you?

Language

1. a) Did you have any issues understanding the press conference? For example: Grammar; vocabulary; meaning etc. Yes/no

b) If you marked yes, what were these issues?

c) What have you done to resolve these issues?

2. a) Is there any new language (for example: grammar; vocabulary; phrases etc) that you have picked up this week which you might find useful in everyday language use? Yes/no

b) If you marked yes, give a few examples of this new language.

3. a) Did you make use of the hot potatoes exercises? Yes/no

b) If you marked yes, did they help your comprehension of the press conference?

General

1. What do you feel you have achieved this week? For example: interaction with the group; communication skills; language etc.

2. Are there any areas where you think you could improve? For example: speaking; contributing to the group work; contributing to the discussions with the teachers etc.

Techniques for Collective problem solving

Here are some techniques which you and your team could employ to help with the problem of finding the new tri state connector route.

Define the problem

Together define the problem by considering the information gathered from the materials provided.

Define the key causes of the problem,

What factors are hindering a direct route?

Generate alternative solutions

Think about alternative solutions to the problem. Your group could carry out a brainstorming or mind mapping exercise. The purpose of this exercise is to simply generate as many alternatives as possible.

Evaluate the alternative solutions

The group could create a set of criteria by which to evaluate the solutions. These criteria should only focus on aspects which are needed or desired to solve the problem. For example: the required length in miles of the proposed road; the time restrictions for the roads completion etc. Unnecessary criteria needlessly reduce the number of potential solutions. The solution which best meets the required criteria could be considered as the preferred solution.

However, if your group is having problems coming to a consensus over the solution, members should work towards clarifying specific areas of disagreement, and then identify ways to integrate similar interests into the solution.

Develop an action plan

Action planning is designed to involve people, build their commitment, and increase the likelihood that the solution will be implemented effectively, and on time. A simple action plan may involve

- what you want to achieve (i.e the goal)
- Decide how each step is going to be undertaken (i.e the strategy)
- Deciding on a time frame.
- Deciding who will be responsible for each step.
- Deciding on the outcome of the completed step (i.e what will have been achieved by the end of the step)

Implement the solution

Solution steps should be implemented according to the action plan. However, sometimes unintended consequences occur that require changes to the implementation plan midstream. Make sure that the team has regular meetings so that any changes to the plan can be considered collectively.



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Week 4

Group Interaction

1. Have you arranged times this week to meet on the forum and discuss the information which each of you has gathered? Yes/no

2. a) Did you find sharing the information with others helped you gain a better understanding of the material? Yes/no

b) If yes, how did sharing the information help you gain a better understanding of the material?

3. a) This week you have been exchanging information with your group, did you have any problems expressing your information or ideas? Yes/no

b) If you replied yes, note down these problems (for example problems with grammar, vocabulary etc).

c) Have you any ideas on how to remedy these communication issues?

1. a) has there been any opportunities for you to help group members who are having problems with the task? Yes/no

b) If you marked yes, how did you help them?

2. a) Have you experienced any help with the task from group members? Yes/no

b) If you marked yes, how did they help you?

Language

1. a) Is there any new language (grammar, vocabulary, phrases) which you have picked up this week which you might find useful in everyday language use? Yes/no

b) If you marked yes, give a few examples of this new language.

General

1. What do you feel you have achieved this week? For example: interaction with the group; communication skills; vocabulary etc.

2. Are there any areas where you think you could improve? For example: speaking; contributing to the group work; contributing to the discussions with the teachers etc.



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Week 5

Group Interaction

1. Have you found it easier or more difficult to interact with the group in the classroom environment than in the virtual environment of the platform?

2. a) Did you have any problems with the giving and receiving of information during your interaction time with the new group? Yes/no

b) If you replied yes, note down these problems (for example problems with grammar, vocabulary, understanding, speaking).

c) Have you any ideas on how to remedy these communication issues?

4. Has your group agreed about how the task will be completed? Yes/no

3. a) Has there been any opportunities for you to help group members who are having problems with the task? Yes/no

b) If you marked yes, how did you help them?

4. a) Have you experienced any help with the task from group members? Yes/no

b) If you marked yes, how did they help you?

Communication

1a). This week you have been exchanging information with your group and also new group, did you have any problems expressing your information or ideas? Yes/no

b) If you replied yes, note down these problems (for example, problems with grammar, vocabulary etc).

c) Have you any ideas on how to remedy these communication issues?

General

1. What do you feel you have achieved this week? For example: interaction with the group; communication skills; vocabulary etc.

2. Are there any areas where you think you could improve? For example: speaking; contributing to the group work; contributing to the discussions with the teachers etc.



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Week 6

Group Interaction

1. a) Has your group arrived at a solution for the construction of the road? Yes/no

b) If you marked yes, think about how you arrived at this collective solution. Mark down 2 or 3 ways that you worked together to come up with the solution. For example: brainstorming alternative solutions for the road; group evaluation of possible solutions etc.

3. a) Has there been any opportunities for you to help group members who are having problems with the task? Yes/no

b) If you marked yes, how did you help them?

4. a) Have you experienced any help with the task from group members? Yes/no

b) If you marked yes, how did they help you?

Language

1. What problems did you face during the writing of the report? For example: sentence structure; organisation; paragraphs etc.

2. What solutions did you find for those problems?

3. Imagine you had more time to write this essay. What would you do if you were to continue ?

General

1. What do you feel you have achieved this week? For example: interaction with the group; communication skills; vocabulary etc.

2. Are there any areas where you think you could improve? For example: speaking; sentence structure; organisation of ideas.



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Week 7

Group interaction

1. Write four or five sentence about how you have found the experience of working in a group to solve a problem? For example did it help you better understand the material, did you find it difficult making decisions and solving problems through communicating in English, did you find it frustrating or helpful working with others?etc.

2. a) Do you think you have learned or developed any skills through collaborating with your peers?
Yes/no

b) If you marked yes, then give a few examples (for example: communicating in English, organisation etc).

Communication

1. a) This week you have been looking back at your language in the forums, classroom and video conferencing. Are there any areas you think you have improved upon? Yes/ no

b) If you marked yes, write 2 or 3 sentences about the areas you feel you have developed (for example are you a more confident speaker? have you learned some useful vocabulary? are you using more complex sentences? do you have a better understanding of spoken English?).

c) If you marked no, why do you feel that you have not been able to improve or develop some of your communication skills?

2. a) Are there any areas which you feel you could still improve upon or develop further? Yes/no

b) If you marked yes, then give a few examples of these areas (for example, report/essay writing, sentence structure, understanding spoken/written English, spontaneous speech etc).

b)write down 2 or 3 active ways you could help yourself to improve these areas (for example, seeking opportunities to speak in English, redraft and look over what you have written etc).
