

SP.259: INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY IN AFRICA

Assignment Two: IDEA (due 8th of March, by 7 pm)

You may choose either of the following two options to present on:

Option One: TechVillage

Under the materials section of the MIT server, you'll notice there is a picture-essay of an African Village. The different aspects of the village, which should give you an idea of the surroundings, children, sanitation levels etc. You'll get into a group of 5 people to design a technology. Proceed as follows:

- Get into a group of 5 people
- Outside of class, choose a technology that you think will benefit this village. It has to be ONE product ONLY. This can be a new type of motor, a new sanitation system etc.
- Your job in the next class (8th of March) will be to do a short 5- minute skit, in which you'll sell this technology. The skit can either be a TV advertisement, a speech, anything.

Grading: You'll be graded on the content of your skit, as well as the style, how interesting it is, your use of audio/visual media, etc.

Option Two: Two-page Paper

The second option will be suitable for those that already have an idea of a program or a new technology that they would like to see implemented in Africa. This will essentially be a 'preliminary project proposal'. The proposal should be two single-spaced pages in length, and should contain the following:

- What is your idea? What problem will this idea potentially solve if implemented?
- Tell us a little about the implementation of such an idea. How will it work? How feasible is it?
- What are the potential obstacles? What do you see as the main problems, in terms of long-term sustainability?
- What scale of funding will you require? Can you think about any sources for your funding?
- How many people, and what sort of people, would you require on your team?
- What is the approximate timeline?

Grading: We understand that you may not have a very clear picture of what you'd like see done in Africa this summer. This will materialize as the class goes. However, we would like to summarize whatever the ideas you have, and present them on paper. You'll be marked not as much on your idea, as your goals, and how you are thinking about implementing them.