Section 1: Research Questions

Explain what specific problem or issue you are addressing. Be sure to do this work in consultation with your partners. What research questions do you have about the problem? What do you want to test? What can you feasibly act upon?

I am working to address the amount of engagement young adults have with water education, specifically conservation. My research questions are focused on understanding the interviewees' personal bias related to water education and what might have contributed to them. One of my questions are as follows: "Have you ever been personally affected by water related environmental crises."

Section 2: Geographic Focus and Stakeholders

This could be as specific as the community partner you are working with or as broad as the neighborhood you are working in. Explain why you have chosen the focus and who your key stakeholders are. Tell us what you know about them and what you still need to know. Explain the role and level of involvement of each stakeholder.

I have chosen Young Adult education as my focus primarily because it was the first topic assigned to me at the beginning of my first semester working with CODES.

My stakeholders include my community partners – Heartlands conservancy and CODES at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. "Heartlands" is a nature conservancy located in the downtown area of Belleville, Illinois. They specialize in conservation efforts and the maintenance of existing biodiverse biomes including but not limited to prairies, meadows, woodlands, etc. Things I still need to know about them is if they have been successful in conducting any initiatives to get people from the southern Illinois area involved with them and how they went about it.

CODES is my second stake holder and the professors who run this program are directly involved in my education on environmental sustainability and research related to water education, indigenous science, etc. I would like to know where the program leaders desire the program to be in the next year as far as recruitment and awareness of the program and how I can do my part to make that a reality.

Section 3: Data Collection

What data do you need to answer your question: secondary research, interviews, surveys, focus groups, oral histories, ethnographies, scientific experiments? Drawing on your experience from your other CODES courses, develop plans for specific data sets that need to be collected. Each member of the team will be responsible for collecting and curating one data set. Raw data should be maintained in a shared drive accessible to the entire team. Determine what data you will need to collect and who will be responsible for the work. For each data collection activity in your plan, consider why you are collecting it, how and from whom you will collect it, and what methods will be most effective.

I will need to collect qualitative data to better understand my target audience's stance on water conservation practices and people who engage in such practices as a way of life or even as a career path. I am also trying to better understand the specifics on how I can get my target audience engaged in organization, work, learning, etc., – related to this topic.

Section 4: Implementation

What will be the outcome of your research? Will you develop an exhibit, engage students in a learning activity, design a digital project, etc.? Why is this the best plan for implementation? What do you need to know to make the implementation

successful? How will it meet the needs of your audience? Who will do each part of the work? How will you assess its success? Each member of the team will be responsible for collecting and curating one content assignment (an output based on the available data that feeds into the broader group project).

The outcome of my research will be a podcast style YouTube video that I plan to edit with Davinci resolve. I plan on making it animated and encapsulating without distracting viewers from the dialogue of the conversations. I'm planning on having 4 participants per episode and doing around 10 episodes done by the end of my CODES career. I believe This plan is the best for my focus because it will help others who may be new to the topic understand that there is less stigma around it than what may be initially thought of. Hearing students from the past to talk about these things can allow them to have a better perception of the nature of learning in an academic setting, especially related to topics not commonly associated with college level learning. It will meet the needs of my audience by promoting water conserrvation in a way that is mutually beneficial and interactive, effectively reducing stigma for listeners and future students especially those with an interest in environmental sustainability thinking about starting a career at SIUE. I will be doing each part of the work including recording, transcribing, editing, animating, etc.

 I will assess its success by uploading episodes as they are finished periodically and then working on the next one soon after watching the previous videos' traction and analyzing it to see what I could have done to make it more engaging.