Delta State University
SOC 421/521 COD 521 Sustainable Development
Fall Semester 2008

Collaborative Learning Group Assignment:
“The Bolivar County Sustainability Initiative”

Working in Collaborative Learning Groups provides you with an opportunity to
practice and develop critical thinking skills through active, collaborative
engagement in learning.

Learning Objectives:

(1) Understand and compare different perspectives on what sustainability
means and entails;
(2) Conduct effective research, including a literature review, data analysis, and
writing collaborative research papers;
(3) Think critically about the concept of sustainable development and its
application to a specific social context.

The class will be divided into four Collaborative Learning Groups (CLGs), each
of which will represent a particular perspective on sustainability and
development in Bolivar County. Each CLG is responsible for learning as much
as possible about the perspective you are representing, and for completing a set
of activities that are due through the semester. Drawing on readings that your
group locates, your group will submit a position paper that outlines how your
organization views sustainable development. Each group member will also
submit two letters to the editor of a local newspaper, that analyze specific issues
in Bolivar County, in response to current events in the county. You will submit
each document, and after they have been graded, you will have an opportunity to
revise the documents before posting each online for the other groups to read.

At the end of the semester, the groups will meet and debate their positions at
the “Let’s Make Bolivar Sustainable!” Summit, coordinated by the Bolivar County
Committee on Sustainable Development. Each student is expected to read all of
the papers and letters prepared by each CLG, once they are posted on the web.
This will help you prepare for the Sustainability Summit.