

Part III Group Research Project**Due: Thursday, November 20, 2008**

Format: The group report should follow the APA style format. This includes a cover page and “works cited” (reference) page, and citations for all reference material. Margins of 1” and a 12 point font are required. The paper should be a minimum of five pages not including the cover and reference pages.

The cover page should include all the names and signatures of your group members.

Data should be presented in tables contained within the narrative. As part of the analysis, at least one pie chart or graph should be presented to illustrate a key point. All the parts of a written report should be included: introduction, explanatory text with topic headings, summary, and conclusion.

Required inclusions: The *focus of this report is the economic assets* of your county. Who are the specific (by name) major employers in the county and what are products or services they produce? Do not forget that governments and educational institutions are major employers in our counties. Which employers seem to be expanding and which are contracting? What impact is the economy having on the county population? Are there new employment opportunities opening to replace any lost jobs? What types of workers are employed in these industries; e.g. what professions and occupations are needed for these employers? Do not forget to consider the entire county. There are a surprising number of internationally known businesses tucked away in small towns in our region.

How might some characteristic of your county that some might see as a negative be recast into a positive. For example, many of the counties are rural with low population density. How might this characteristic be used to attract newcomers with particular interests including certain types of businesses? How might the educational opportunities in the area be used to draw both students and economic development?

In the conclusion of the report, at least three key **assets** of your county should be presented and recommendations for building on these assets to enhance the economy and quality of life in your count. These assets may have already been identified in your prior research and may include economic, cultural, human, natural, environmental, and other resources. For example, if your have identified a recreational resource, what are your recommendations for enhancing the use and development of this resource. There may an agricultural product or activity that could be developed to attract wider interest and tourists.

Report submission: The report is submitted to me in two versions: a printed copy in the format above and an electronic copy sent to me by email. The electronic copy will be posted on our Blackboard site as a resource for the whole class.

Assessment: This assignment will be assessed as a group activity with all members sharing the points. Directly and consciously experiencing the pluses and minuses of the group is part of sociology. Members will be given group participation rating sheets to assess the degree of participation of themselves and other group members. Part III (of four) earns 50 points—40 for the paper and 10 for the presentation.