

“Really, Anything Goes” (R.A.G.) Prize

Your task over the next 2 weeks is to work in teams towards finding an answer to any question you like. This is a competition but don't let that get in the way of meeting your main objectives, which are as follows (in order of importance):

1. It must be fun to do.
2. It must be fun to judge.
3. You answer a question you are really interested in, in a multidisciplinary way.
4. Learn something.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE TASK

1. **Identify** a Question.
2. **Plan** your approach.
3. **Implement** your Plan.
4. **Product:** Present your Answer.

1. Identify a Question

You need to find a Question for which there is no ready answer. Most questions are scientific-based but this is good as it lends itself to experiments that you can conduct. Ask a specific question as you don't have too much time to answer one that covers too big an area.

e.g. Does (asam laksa) maggi mee cause hair loss?

What makes a video game good?

What is the ideal design for a stapler? 1 to 1 learning environment classroom?

Or you can put forth a hypothesis / statement and seek to prove/disprove it.

e.g. Laughter reduces memory strength

Music helps with memory retention

It cannot be something that doesn't have a definitive or ready answer. Therefore “What

It is also not a general topic for research. e.g. “Space Discovery” or “Pollution in the Andes”.

It does NOT need to be related to your syllabus.

2. Plan your Approach.

You will work in teams of four and be given a teacher supervisor.

i. Allocate group members to the following roles

: Coordinator- oversees the division of responsibility and compiles work at the end of the task for submission.

: Scribe - to start a blog to document your group's progress. However, all members should contribute to this. Teacher supervisors may participate in the blogs as well (entries/comments).

: Time keeper: works out timeline for task to be completed and ensures that all members adhere to the timeline.

(If you prefer a different method of assigning roles, go ahead).

ii. What do you need to do?

Background research : internet, seek experts in the field and interview/ask.

Other methods that you may use to compile data: surveys, experiments. Remember: it is always a good thing to obtain data that you can **measure** (see Maggi Mee example below).

Have a **multidisciplinary** approach to answering your Question. Any question can be expanded to cover many disciplines (subjects).

e.g. Does maggi mee cause hair loss?

This is clearly a science-based question, but you can expand the question to also cover aspects of geography, history, commerce and even art.

HISTORY :

When was maggi mee first launched? What was the story? How come the conventional wisdom that too much causes hair loss?

- Survey to see how many people think this way?

SCIENCE:

Is there a scientific basis for this? What are the components of maggi mee?

Possibility of experiment: 5 groups - Group A with 2 packets a day; Group B with 4 packets a day; Group C with 6 packets a day ,,,,and one group (Control Group) with no maggi mee. Count hair loss each day for one week. Draw graph, etc.

Interview Experts: If you wish to record their interview, seek their permission,

GEOGRAPHY:

In cases where this was reported, was there a correlation (connection) with where the cases were found?

If so, could the hair loss have been due to other factors, eg water pollution in those areas?

COMMERCE:

Based on your research and findings, advertise the danger / non-danger of eating maggi mee in relation to hair loss. Do a public service message.

ART:

Posters for your public service message.

iii. Look at your desired Product, i.e the way you would be presenting your Answer.

By looking at this before you start, you will be able to divide your workload/ responsibilities and function more efficiently as a team. Your Answer should be in the following forms.

i. AUDIO/VISUAL : Keynote presentation/ Movie/ Audio or a combination. Make sure it is not full of text! This component cannot exceed 5 mins.

ii. Accompanying research DATA, on Pages. This can be full of text and can also contain graphs, survey data, photos, etc. Can be as long or as short as you like. *If there are any follow-up questions that surfaced during your task which may possibly an area for more research/another task later on, indicate at the end of the write-up.*

iii. BLOG - essential to see the process of working through your task

3. Implement Your Plan

4. Products - no need to print. Please submit through transfer via USB Drive/External Hard Drive

It is not necessary for the AUDIO/VISUAL component to be done live. Can be anything: a movie, self-

playing keynote presentation. But if you like, you may present live too.

DEADLINE

JUDGING

By vote after the deadline.

QUERIES

Please ask your teacher supervisor or write to Dr Iskandar Rizal at rizal@cempaka.edu.my.

SEVERAL IDEAS FOR QUESTIONS

1. What is the ideal sleeping time for memory retention the next morning?
2. What is the ideal sleeping time for being the most alert the next morning?
Could possibly be measured by measuring reaction times
3. Bread which has been buttered is more likely to land on the side it is buttered.
4. A right-footed person will reach his destination quicker if the first step is taken with the right foot.
5. What is the ideal design for a 1 to 1 learning environment classroom?
6. What is the ideal design for a 1 to 1 learning environment desk?
7. What is the ideal design for a school bag?

Very good examples are found at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Ig_Nobel_Prize_winners