TO: Kathryn Flint  
FROM: Zach Kennedy, Carolyn Krukewitt, Bijal Shah, Clay Estabrooke  
DATE: April 2, 2006  
RE: Research Project Proposal

PURPOSE:
We propose to analyze the activity system of international admissions. We want to inform other students and perhaps prospective students of the University of Illinois what are some differences this process takes compared to general admission. There are different qualifications that I have to be meant to be considered to come here. Also the different about of tuition dues that are needed to come to school. Since they will be coming to another country to attend this university, they will also need to do some other things to stay for so long in the United States. This could be different types of visas, paperwork, or other issues.

QUALIFICATIONS:
Each of our group members were admitted to the University of Illinois under different circumstances and backgrounds, therefore we have knowledge about the admissions process for domestic students. However, none of us went through the international admissions process so we thought this was an intriguing subject to explore because a large population of our school is from overseas. Since we interact with these students on a daily basis, we thought it would be worth while to compare the admissions experiences of our group to those of international students. This activity system is more comprehensive, with regards to admissions, than the general admissions process. The knowledge we bring before conducting research is that internationals students face financial and language requirements, among those are obtaining a certain TOEFL score as well as providing bank statements showing that they have the means to attend the school.

PROPOSAL:
We are going to prepare a paper and presentation about the international admissions department at the University of Illinois. This paper and presentation will focus on our topic in two ways. First, we will analyze international admissions as an activity system through the use of various materials. More specifically, our paper will examine the tools, motives, division of labor, community, rules, and subject that comprise and define international admissions at the University of Illinois. Second, we will select and analyze a specific textual tool important to international admissions as an activity system.

a. Topic: Our topic is the international admissions department at the University of Illinois.

b. Research: To aid our research we will conduct interviews. Possible interviewees include: international admissions counselors, international students, and faculty and staff working in the department. Along with interviews we will examine relevant written materials including brochures, articles and websites.
c. Audience: The audience for our paper includes prospective international students, faculty involved in international admissions, or anyone interested in our topic.

**TIMELINE:**

**Sunday 4/2**
- Meet at 5pm at Union
- Work on compiling the proposal rough draft due 4/3, bring individual work
- Read Chapter 9 SWW

**Monday 4/3**
- Proposal Draft Due
- Work on final proposal in class

**Wednesday 4/5**
- Meet 9 am at Union
- Work on final proposal
- Work on conference report

**Friday 4/7**
- Group conference with instructor 9:15 am

**Monday 4/10**
- Proposal Final Due

**Wednesday 4/12**
- Meet 9 am at Union
- Work Day

**Friday 4/14**
- Meet in Lab
- Lab Day

**Monday 4/17**
- Meet 9 am at Union
- Work Day

**Wednesday 4/19**
- Meet 9 am at Union
- Work Day

**Friday 4/21**
- Research Project Draft Due
- Lab Day
- Work on conference report

**Monday 4/24**
- In class
  - Group conference with instructor 9:15 am

**Wednesday 4/26**
- In class
  - Work on final draft

**Friday 4/28**
- Lab Day
  - Effective presentations
  - Read SWW Chapter 10
Monday 5/1
Presentations
Wednesday 5/3
Presentations
Monday 5/8
Final Research Projects and Team Evaluations Due

**BENEFITS:**
The benefits of this project are important because they will increase awareness and efficiency about the process of international admission, both for prospective students and for faculty. This report will identify the strengths and weakness of the current international admissions department. The weaknesses will be analyzed and suggestions of improvement will be offered. The strengths will also be identified and expanded upon. The international studies program is essential in an ever changing interdependent world. The access, participation, and gathered experiences of international students will be pressed for efficiency and over-all effectiveness.

Personal Growth
- Step outside the standard academic approach
- Maturity and self-confidence
- Scholarships

University Growth
- State and Federal Grants

Intercultural Development
- Compare and contrast cultures
- Learn societal norms and taboos

Education and Career Attainment
- Human Capital Enrichment

Enhance/Supplement Students Academic Experience
- Both the exchange and U of I students/faculty

**SOURCES:**

Mr. Smith, International Admissions counselor, personal communication, April 20, 2006.


CONCLUSION:
Our group plans to analyze the activity system of the International Admissions department at the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign. We wanted to focus on the Admissions Department, but this was too broad of an area, so we narrowed it down to International Admissions. We thought this was an interesting topic because many of us did not know much about it. When looking at the informational websites, we found a lot of fascinating information about applying to programs, including all the necessary paperwork to get admitted. Not only do you need the right scores on standardized tests and grade point average, but you need to be approved to get a student visa as well as provide the school with bank statements to show that you have enough money to pay the international tuition. The next actions we plan to take include going to the international admissions office, review informational material, talk to faculty and staff in the department as well as set up interviews with international admissions counselors and international students to get a first-hand view at the admission process.