Sample group work assessment task 3

Online assessment task:

- Your task is to create, as a group, a hypertext (a set of linked wiki pages) that gives an overview of the current research issues on your theme/topic.
- The length should be about 10,000 words overall.
- The details of the content and how the hypertext is structured, is up to the group. Initially, let the structure grow as your knowledge and understanding of the issues grows. Towards week 3 of this activity, begin to think of a structure that can also be used by others to gain an understanding of the issues. Instead of restructuring the whole wiki for presentation purposes, it might be better to write an ‘advance organiser’ page that weaves the existing, and perhaps a bit chaotic, content together in form of a narrative with lots of links into the existing content. The primary criteria, however, is not so much quality of presentation as it is quality of content. The hypertext should reflect the group members' combined knowledge and understanding rather than be a nicely polished ‘presentation’. Don't waste your time by making things 'look nice'!
- Elements your hypertext should contain (and grading criteria)
  - An advance organiser page, providing a coherent narrative and links into the rest of the hypertext
  - Main research issues and current challenges
  - Important studies and main findings (be detailed and precise here).
  - Central methodological issues
  - Examples from various areas (build on your own expertise and interests and relate to theoretical and methodological issues. No long merely descriptive prose here -- don't get lost in the examples!)
  - An annotated bibliography
  - An annotated link list to web resources
  - Your reflections and interpretations on all these and other aspects

Note that these elements and others you might come up with should be densely interlinked, so that we get a HYPERtext, not just (linear) text. Linking in wikis is easy, in particular if you work with multiple browser windows (one that contains the text box of the wiki page you are working on, the other windows displaying the parts of the wiki you want to refer to.) In general, sites such as wikepedia are a good example for linking.

It is imperative that you use high-quality resources (scholarly, academic)! Do not rely primarily on sources you find just anywhere on the web. The University of Sydney provides excellent on-line resources that you have access to from campus as well as from home. The final hypertext should include information from at least 15 of such high-quality sources.

Process

The main steps for this task are (not necessarily in linear order):
1. Identify what literature you are looking for and search for it; manage this resource
2. Evaluate and select
3. Summarise and organise (inter-link)
4. Interpret, evaluate and synthesise members’ contributions
5. Develop an advance organiser/index and perform some quality control measures (such as reviewing) on the pages that are linked into from the organiser

Groups will plan and document their work with a Group Management Tool. All your contributions need to be linked to identifiable activities in that tool.

Groups are required to have at least one joint chat session per week, of at least one hour duration. This chat session should be planned (agenda setting, decision items) and outcomes should be documented (minutes on decisions). The default time is Tuesdays 5-6 pm in your group's chat room. But by all means, use the tool more often (daily) and meet in various configurations, not just the whole team.

The weekly joint chat will need to be prepared and decisions documented. One of you—please rotate this task—should plan the agenda, lead the discussion/decision making in the chat session, and produce the minutes (decisions only).