For this assignment you will briefly and succinctly describe your initial ideas on how the evaluation proposal might be structured and the nature of the evaluation task(s).

The final course product—the group evaluation proposal—will be a full proposal designed in accordance with a 2013 US Department of Labor solicitation for the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant program. Specifically, community colleges seeking TAACCCT grants are required to submit an evaluation plan as part of their grant proposal. Thus, a community college applying for a TAACCCT grant in turn solicits proposals from prospective evaluators—including a description of work and budget, selects the best proposal, and then submits this evaluation plan as part of the grant program application. The case we will specifically consider is Bellingham Technical College's (BTC) Building Nursing Pathways project. Thus, your group is tasked with developing a full evaluation proposal just as if you were seeking to earn an evaluation contract from BTC as part of a TAACCCT grant.

Your initial project idea sketch is intended to serve as a way to: (1) help you organize your thoughts from reading the assignment materials; (2) provide for several ideas amongst your group that can facilitate a productive dialogue and result in a creative and well thought out proposal.

Your initial idea sketch should contain:

(1) **The evaluation problem and (initial) research questions.** Tell the reader not only the topic of the evaluation but also the applied research problem on which you will focus. What question(s) do you intend for your evaluation to answer?

(2) **The basic rationale for the approach you select.** As best you are able to at this point, offer an argument for why your design sketch is well suited for addressed key program questions. Put another way, what would justify spending time and money on your evaluation?

(3) **Brief sketch of the kinds of sample(s) and data you imagine devising.** Without worrying too much about the details, what sorts of samples and data sources would you need for your evaluation?

(4) **Puzzles and issue yet to resolve.** What are your biggest questions at this stage about the evaluation?