

Reflection

As a whole, I believe the group worked well together. Each group member did their share of the work and contributed to the discussion. During the brainstorming process, I felt that I was in a leadership role. I posed questions and discussions that helped formulate how the work would be divided. Leading the discussion like this was a new experience for me. Kathryn was a major factor in deciding our topic; since she is already knowledgeable about various diseases, we decided to use a topic in that category. Because of her knowledge of the topic, she was able to provide extra insight and information. She also recommended reliable sources from which to get our information. During the research process, we all separated somewhat to do our own research for our specific lenses. We collaborated after we had finished creating our PowerPoint presentations and presented our topics to each other. Afterwards, we offered helpful insight and constructive criticism to each other. To formulate our group solution, we took the best points from each of our lenses and put them together. Jennifer provided lots of insight during this part of the process and played a major role in the finalization of our group solution. Overall, personal standpoints and existing opinions did not halt the productiveness of my group. We each listened to and respected each other's ideas.

Our group solution included the best points from each of our individual solutions. We decided that strict safety regulations and routine inspections are crucial to maintain a safe environment for both the workers and the poultry. Some of the safety regulations include maintaining a sanitary environment and providing the workers with proper protective gear. This portion came from my solution, which looked through an economic lens. I had proposed that routine and random inspections be conducted in order to ensure that regulations are being met. We all quickly agreed that this needed to be part of our group solution. We also agreed that outbreaks should be reported, but not to a point of causing panic. The extent of media reports caused some debate. My solution involved little attention by the media, while both Kathryn and Jennifer pushed for full media coverage. We ended up deciding that outbreaks should always be reported, but not to the extent of over-reporting the issue, since news of an outbreak can cause people to panic. Infected poultry must be quarantined and poultry flocks should be vaccinated. This part of our solution stemmed from Kathryn's and my solutions. She had decided to look through a scientific lens. I had suggested quarantine of infected poultry to keep the rest of the flock safe. Kathryn added the need for vaccinating poultry, as most cases of avian flu involve a human coming into contact with infected domestic poultry. This would involve a larger distribution of vaccines to poultry farmers. Finally, we decided that vaccines should be sent to areas that are extremely at risk such as China and the Middle East. This was from Jennifer's solution. Since she was looking through an ethical lens, she pushed for vaccination of humans. Since sending vaccines overseas is expensive, we decided that sending them to areas where avian flu was the most common was a logical solution. It should also be ensured that workers receive these vaccines as well, since they work in close quarters with poultry and are most at risk.

Throughout the duration of this project, I learned much about avian flu and the dangers it poses to our world. Before I had extensively researched the project, I believed it was merely a mild strain of flu that one could catch from wild birds. I learned that the virus is much more

dangerous than that and the possibility of a global pandemic (if it becomes human to human transmissible) is a huge threat. Despite the research that my group and I did, there is still much more information to be found that will help formulate a better solution for keeping avian flu under control. For instance, part of my group's collaborated solution was to enforce strict safety regulations involving the poultry. Further research should be conducted in order to understand what regulations are already in place and how they are enforced. With this information, we would have been able to come up with a detailed strategy of what regulations should have been put in place and followed. Another part of our group solution was sending vaccinations to high risk areas. In order to decide which areas are at the most risk of contracting avian flu, we would need to find records and reports of outbreaks of poultry and human cases. This information could likely be acquired from the CDC or WHO websites. Those statistics could help us decide where vaccines were in the highest demand.

Examiner comment – Level 5

- This reflective paper resulted from a team project exploring the problem of avian flu and different solutions for preventing its transmission. It begins with some effective evaluation of the candidate's own practice in working with others, identifying and assessing the effectiveness of each member in the first paragraph in terms of their role. This could perhaps have been developed further as a set of judgements, but meets the criteria for Level 4.
- The candidate's reflection on the development of their own standpoint is a real strength however, moving on from a summary of the group solution to a precise and detailed explanation of how each member's perspective compared with their own, and therefore developed and challenged the candidate's position. This is continued in the discussion of further research, meriting a Level 5 for this criterion.

Total mark awarded: 9 out of 10

This candidate response fits with a low Level 5.