Here are a few suggestions for helping our students organize their group projects.

First of all each of the group topics are structured identically:

Topic X, Globalization, Social Justice and Human Rights

Lets say that topic X is Air Quality (or pandemics, poverty, cultural diversity, sex trafficking, women’s rights, etc, etc.)

1.       Both teams will come together to write an introduction which lays out the parameters of the topic –highlighting the importance, history, dimensions and influence of globalization, social justice and human rights from a general level.  Then

2.       Students teams will be asks to first prepare a brief assessment of what this looks like at the local level.

a.       Therefore students at Milan would write a brief assessment of Air Quality from the vantage point of Europe, Southern Europe or say Italy

b.      While students at Miami would do the same from the vantage point of say the U.S. or central Ohio.

3.       Then the teams would divide the other topics depending upon how many members on each school team. Again

a.       At Miami let’s assume that this is team 1 with three members.

                                                               i.      They might look at how topic x at the local level is impacted upon by globalization, human rights and social justice

1.       Each member of the team would take a separate topical area

a.       Therefore group member a would look at globalization and topic x at the local level or within the u.s.

b.      Member b would look at human rights implications  and topic x at the local level/or within the u.s.

b.      At Milano let’s assume that they have a team with 2 members

                                                               i.      And each member would take a separate topical area

1.       Therefore member a might look at globalization and topic a

2.       Member b might look at human rights and topic a

                                                             ii.      While both tack social justice and topic a at the local level

4.       Collectively then the teams –both from Milan and Miami would then compare and contrast the different perspectives pointing out the similarities and differences. In their jointly written conclusion they will assess how solutions –social justice oriented policies might reflect these similarities and differences.

Note this is just one Model to organize the groups. What it does is provide clear division of labor, down to the individual level, which further allows us as Faculty to hold each individual student accountable as well as the groups from each respective school, while finally encouraging them to come to some type of critical consensus.    I encourage the Faculty Coordinators to help their respective teams to think through how to accomplish the task before them.