A proposal for a multimedia website and mobile app
The impetus for this project comes from the rich experiences learned from the River Semester at Augsburg College. Sixteen students traveled more than 2,300 miles from the start of the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico. The students had life-changing experiences along the way and learned about life on the river in a real way. The river also became the classroom with subjects including biology, history, political science, art, and culture. Often, those who call the river home were the teachers.

The underlying premise of the River Semester was a challenge to the status quo of higher education. Could a rich educational experience be provided within a fraction of the environmental impact of a traditional brick-and-mortar education?
Endless Tours would like to take that challenge one more step.

Could a rich educational experience be created by merging the sites and sounds of a place with the expertise of an educator?

The result would be a sustainable open source platform to allow sharing of educational virtual experiences within a community of learners and educators.
What is the platform?

The platform is the foundation for the website and mobile app. It also is a framework for publishing location-based content. This content can be any combination of text, images, sound, or video.
Endless Tours takes pictures, video, social media and overlays the information on a digital map using geo-location data. In addition to the multimedia information, the app connects learning content to the map interface.

The app could then be used in one of two ways:

1) Tours could be viewed by anyone through the search function or by social sharing.

2) The Endless Tours app can be treated like a virtual tour guide as participants trace the routes in reality. Tour information automatically pops up based on geo-location data from the users device.
Mapping the River Semester

Endless Tours has partnered with Augsburg College and the River Semester team to capture the experiences from the trip in a virtual tour. The results have helped build a foundation for the platform to expand on.

October 25, 2015
IN THE LAND OF FLYING FISH
It seems appropriate that, as we draw nearer to the land of Twain, our imaginations would become a bit more active, and that nature and man would cooperate to supply us with some extraordinary tales. Places affect us, and it is hard not to think about Clemens and his cast of characters, his reflections and tales from the river. A long time has passed since he was here, but still somehow one feels that we look on the same land and river that he did, despite all the changes that have occurred in the interim.

More at augsburg.edu/river/blog

The posts on the tour can be viewed sequentially or by tapping on a specific location.

October 19, 2015
INDUSTRIAL IMPACT ON RIVER

More at augsburg.edu/river/blog
Possible types of tours

- Eco-tourism
- Urban ecology
- Historical tours
- Museum tours
- Biking tours
- Preservation project documentation
- Battlefield reenactment
- Eat local discovery
- Classroom augmentation
- And much more
Sustainability Statement

The Endless Tour is all about people. As human beings, we have evolved to tell stories as a way of conveying our experiences and values. The Endless Tour app allows those stories and experiences to come to life.

Through these shared experiences, Endless Tour hopes to connect people around conversations of sustainability. How could we re-imagine our world together? A world that cares for our planet, conducts business in a way that adds value to our world, and thrives off the diversity of culture.

Let’s start the journey together ...