

Research Paper

Abstract due: 11/3

Bibliography due: 11/10

Paper due: 11/17 by the start of class.

In groups, prepare a 5-7-page research paper on a topic of your choosing. The topic should engage with a scientific field and include Title, Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, and Works Cited sections. The title must convey the result of your paper in a single phrase. It should not be catchy, but simply informative. In your Introduction you will lay out the problem or question that your paper will engage with and suggest some possible solutions or conclusions to this problem. Your Methods section will bring in outside sources, either published research or peer reviewed secondary papers on the topic in questions, and discuss their methods of inquiry, data collection, or other relevant empirical procedures. The Results section will present data and analysis from these sources and the Discussion section will synthesize a conclusion from these results, answering the questions posed in the Introduction. Your Works Cited section will include MLA style citations for all sources used throughout the paper, whether peer reviewed or supplementary. Any information included within the text of the research paper that draws from these sources will be paraphrased, not quoted, and followed by an MLA style in-line citation. You may include charts, diagrams, or illustrations in your paper, but these will not count in calculating total paper length and these must be clearly labeled and integrated into the text as figures (ex: Fig. 1), and if these are pulled from outside sources then these, too, must be cited.

You must cite at least three peer-reviewed scientific documents, either research papers, articles on the scholarship, or other relevant texts. Other sources may be cited, as well, that are not peer reviewed, such as scientific textbooks, non-fiction popular science books, or science journalism, but these will not count towards the three-source minimum.

Your group will turn in an abstract in advance of the project which I will approve. The following week a bibliography will be due for the same purpose. After the projects are handed in, each team will present their paper to the class in a 10-minute presentation. All of these components are necessary to complete the assignment. Any assignment not preceded by an abstract and a bibliography will not be graded. Your final grade for the research project will be based 60% on the written work and 40% on the quality of your presentation.