BIOL 3702 Term Paper Assignment

Purpose
The purpose of this term paper is i) to broaden your knowledge of a specific topic, and ii) to help you gain experience in gathering, interpreting, and documenting information, developing and organizing ideas and conclusions, and communicating them clearly.

To this end, you will be responsible for creating a fictional news article in the style of *Science News*. Examples of such articles can be found through the following URLs below:

- [http://www.sciencenews.org/articles/20061209/fob1.asp](http://www.sciencenews.org/articles/20061209/fob1.asp)

Specific Objective
Your term paper is not to be a summary of an article. Rather, you should demonstrate that you understand the problems studied in the paper you choose by carefully interpreting and evaluating the information you present.

The specific parameters for this assignment are as follows:

- Your term paper must be 1000-1500 words in length.
- The topic of your term paper must focus on some aspect of microbiology and must be based upon a journal article published in the primary literature since January 2006.

**NOTE:** A primary journal is one in which the articles are research based – NOT review articles. See the following URL to help you understand the definition of primary literature as opposed to other types of research-oriented literature:

[http://www.dartmouth.edu/~biomed/resources.htmlmd/primarylit.shtml](http://www.dartmouth.edu/~biomed/resources.htmlmd/primarylit.shtml)

Such journals include *Science, Nature*, any of the research-based journals from the American Society for Microbiology ([http://www.asm.org](http://www.asm.org)), many types of microbiology research journals (e.g., *Molecular Microbiology, Journal of Infectious Diseases*, etc.) and any non-review journal from the list provided at the following URL:

[http://journals.ohiolink.edu/local-cgi/subject.pl?subject=Microbiology_and_Immunology](http://journals.ohiolink.edu/local-cgi/subject.pl?subject=Microbiology_and_Immunology)

Keep in mind that this list is not exhaustive and that other journals can be used provided the article is research oriented and related to any field within microbiology.

- Your term paper must *broadly* summarize the research in the chosen article and specifically address the following points:
  - What was the purpose of the research?
  - What specific questions were addressed and how?
  - What significant results were obtained?
What was particularly striking about this study and its findings?

How will these results affect humankind in either real or potential terms pertaining to:

- Socioeconomic benefits
- Fundamental biological principles
- Public health (if applicable)

What questions did this study not answer and how might these be approached?

**Style of Term Paper**

Use the overall general format/style of the *Science News* articles to prepare you draft and final versions of your term paper. Both should be styled as follows:

- Cover page – please do not submit a cover page. Your name, date, and title should go on the first page immediately before the beginning of the text you have written.
- Margins – 1 inch all around
- Font and size – 10 to 12 point font of any reasonable, simple style (e.g., Arial, Times Roman, Courier, etc.) that can be easily read
- Spacing – all lines should be double spaced
- Name/page numbers – each page should be numbered. In addition, each page should contain your name at the top (in the header space)
- References – list your primary reference and 3 or more other resource references that you used to support your summary. These can be from the primary, secondary, or tertiary literature. However, *absolutely no internet resources are allowed to be cited* unless they are imperative to your summary and are authored by authoritative sources. Such internet citations will be carefully scrutinized as to their validity and authority. To cite your references, use the same format as in *Science News*.
- Figures – if you must use figures/tables, do so judiciously being sure to appropriately document their source. Incorporate the figures/tables within the text rather than as documents at the end of your paper.

**Deadlines and Grading**

Your term paper is worth 100 points towards your final course grade.

**Deadline 1.** By the first due date in the course syllabus, you must provide a hard copy of a brief outline describing your proposed topic and a hard copy of the selected primary journal article. You may submit this material prior to the deadline.

Your topic will be reviewed and either approved, denied, or suggestions for modifications will be provided. The outline and journal article will be returned to you.
Submitting this component on time, complete, and in the described fashion is worth 10 points towards your term paper score.

**Deadline 2.** By the second due date in the course syllabus, you will provide a hard copy of the draft version of your term paper for review. In addition, you must submit an electronic copy of your draft to Turnitin.com ([http://www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)). You may submit this material prior to the deadline. Place the draft into the assignment folder entitled “Term Paper Draft”. Brief suggestions/comments may be provided and the draft returned to you for final revision.

Submitting this component on time, complete, and in the described fashion is worth 20 points towards your term paper score.

**Deadline 3.** By the third due date in the course syllabus, you will provide the final version of your term paper. An electronic copy must be submitted to Turnitin.com ([http://www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)). Place the final version into the assignment folder entitled “Final Version Term Paper”. In addition, a hard copy of your paper as well as the hard copy of your primary journal article must be submitted.

Your term paper will be graded for on-time submission (5 points), completeness (10 points), correct format (5 points), grammar (10 points), appropriate references (5 points), and substantive content that addresses the questions posed in the specific objective section above (35 points).

This component is worth 70 points towards your term paper score.

**Helpful Resources**

Students are encouraged to seek help in composing their term paper through the YSU Writing Center ([http://www.as.ysu.edu/~english/wc.html](http://www.as.ysu.edu/~english/wc.html)). Their web page contains helpful information as well as their hours of operation in which you may visit for one-on-one assistance.

In addition, students are encouraged to consult the following materials: