Science Summary Paper and Presentation Guidelines

Students will write a summary paper of a scientific journal article and prepare a brief presentation about a biological organism for the class. Students will choose an organism from the kingdom of life they have drawn “out of a hat”. A Jefferson College librarian will give specific directions on how to research and find the proper science journal article to read and summarize. If there is doubt concerning the article chosen, then please ask the instructor for approval. Students will lose points if they summarize material other than a journal article! See the grading rubric for details. Students must do both the paper and presentation for a possibility 100 points.

Please follow these guidelines for the project:

**Paper**

- The article must be recent --no older than 2010
- Read the article in its entirety being sure to understand reported results in graphs and data. If the article is too technical or difficult to understand, choose a different one for the paper!
- Summarize information in the journal article including where the experiment was performed, its design, results, and importance and/or implications for that species
- The report must be typewritten with double-spacing and approximately two pages in length
- Kingdom, Genus, and species name must be included in the report
- Use binominal nomenclature, spell out the entire Genus and species name when first using it in the report. Thereafter, use only the capital initial of the Genus name and the entire species name (lower-case), italicizing both:
  
  Example: For humans, the kingdom is Animalia, genus is Homo, and the specific name is sapiens. After the organism is mentioned once then it is to be written as H. sapiens.
- Grammar and spell-check must be used

**Presentation**

- Research and present facts such as: where is the organism’s habitat, what is its anatomy, breeding patterns, how long it survives, surprising facts, etc. Students may also present—but do not have to-- any information from their journal summary.
- BE PREPARED!
- Speak clearly and loudly for everyone to hear and understand you.
- The presentation should be around 10 minutes in length.
- Make sure to understand all technical aspects of the subject being presented because fellow students or the instructor may ask for detailed information on the organism.
- PowerPoint or Prezis can be used for presenting or if students feel more comfortable with poster board then this would be acceptable, too.
The presentation must include 2 visual aids. These can be in the form of pictures, diagrams, movie clips, etc. No live organisms are permitted on campus due to the dangers they can pose. However, parts of organisms can be brought to show the class (i.e. teeth, skins/pelts, shells, etc.). Always ask the instructor before bringing such items to class.

- All sources used must be cited
- Grammar and spell-check must be used
- Students do not need to submit their presentations to the instructor

Students will be given a choice of dates to sign-up for the presentation. Students are to present the week they sign up for; points can be deducted for those students not presenting during their scheduled week.

All students will be attentive and respectful of each other when they are presenting to the class this means NO talking during the presentations! In addition, test material will be taken from the presentations so TAKE NOTES.