

## Science Outreach assignment

### Grading Rubric

Task	Poor	Satisfactory	Excellent
<p><b>Choose a topic</b> Select a paper from the primary literature and delve in the broader context of the specific research question</p>	Fails to provide a topic or specific paper	Chooses a paper, but fails to address broader context	Chooses appropriate paper and selects context relevant to course
<p><b>Draft a post</b> Compose draft post of 1000-1500 words including sections specified in assignment</p>	Draft is missing more than 2 required sections	Draft is missing 1-2 required sections	Writes complete draft including all of sections (e.g. evidence, further reading)
<p><b>Revise draft</b> Incorporate instructor feedback into revised draft</p>	Fails to incorporate many suggested changes and/or is missing more than 2 required sections	Incorporates most suggested changes and may be missing one required section	Makes all suggested changes including adding any missing sections
<p><b>Peer Review</b> Provide constructive feedback on two peer drafts</p>	Fails to provide 2 complete reviews	Superficial reviews: includes copy editing suggestions rather than suggestions on content	Complete reviews that includes substantial feedback on each draft
<p><b>Prepare Final</b> Revise draft based on peer feedback. Publish the final version on course blog</p>	Fails to revise draft	Incorporates some peer comments and publishes final draft without any inclusion of online enhancements (e.g. hyperlinks)	Incorporates peer feedback in revised draft. Successfully published final draft online including significant online enhancements

## Assignment

**Choose a topic:** For this assignment, you will select a paper from the primary literature (for example, look up the most recent articles in *PLoS ONE* or have a look at <http://www.microbiomedigest.com/> ) After carefully reading the paper, delve in the broader context of the specific research question being addressed. Check out the authors' website. You want to integrate the specific topic of the paper into a larger question of biology.

**Draft a post:** Once you have selected a paper and done some background reading, start drafting a blog post. You should target a post that is around 1000-1500 words. You'll submit an electronic draft (via Google Doc) to the instructor for an initial round of feedback. You can include figures/pictures, but do not concern yourself with placement within the post, that will be handled at the final stage.

**Revise draft:** You'll receive feedback on your post from the instructor within one week. After revising your post, you'll send it around to your peers in the class for another round of feedback.

**Peer review:** Review two of your classmate's posts. You are not required to read the relevant article. You want to provide constructive feedback to your peers. Think about the kind of reviews you'd like to receive yourself.

**Prepare final:** Following this second round, you'll prepare the final version of the text of your post. You will work in lab to publish the final version on our class blog (a UAF hosted Wordpress site). You are also free to crosspost your post on your own personal blog website.

**You should include the following sections in your post** (labeled as you wish):

Background: Develop the broader context of the topic and research paper you've selected. A good picture (properly credited) can help catch the reader's eye. Here, you'll want to hook the reader's attention.

Central question: State clearly the primary question or hypothesis of the research paper.

Evidence: Briefly, and using a little jargon as possible, sketch out the evidence that the authors found to support their conclusions. It is appropriate to use some figures from the paper, but often it helps to provide simplified versions.

Your questions: This is an opportunity to look beyond the evidence in the paper. What experiments do you think would constitute the next step?

Further reading: A section where you provide links where someone might find more information about the chosen topic. You can include additional papers published by the primary authors or links to other resources (e.g. YouTube video of a talk).

References: A complete list of citations included in your blog post. DOIs and hyperlinks will help your post be more connected and attract more visitors in the future.