A paper will be required for class, due by last week of class (First Week in November)

The paper will be a simple 5 to 7 page (double-spaced, with 1" margins) research paper on a scientific subject of your choosing. The paper MUST be presentation of information or a hypothesis, based upon at least 5 peer-reviewed journal articles. Pay attention to the Introduction/Background sections of your scientific articles. This paper can essentially be what would be a thorough introduction section to a scientific article.

Every statement in your paper, that is not drawing your own conclusion from the information you present, MUST BE CITED/REFERENCED!!!! Some sentences will even have multiple references. That is the sign of a good scientific paper… that multiple researchers have already shown evidence that supports your statement. Very few sentences in your research paper will lack a reference.

The purpose of this paper is for you to:

1) Learn about a scientific subject of your choosing, that is currently being researched with lab or field studies
2) For you to summarize what you learned in a scientific manner
3) For you to learn how to properly write scientific papers, complete with proper citations.

The paper does not have to be long to achieve that. But it must be accurate, well organized, properly referenced, and based upon real research.

NOTE: Any detected **plagiarism** will receive a **ZERO**. DO NOT JUST COPY AND PASTE WORD for WORD from your articles!!! You must paraphrase (say it in your OWN words) what you have read/learned.

While many of you have done your own lab research, this paper may NOT be based on your data. This paper MUST be a presentation of information you have read (OTHER people's research). This can be background information relevant to your own lab work, however.

This paper can be either presenting scientific information in a fact-gathering/compiling manner, or it can be arguing a case (why one technique is better than another, what work still needs to be performed, etc.)

RUBRIC:

Proper citations will count for **40** out of 100 points!! You cannot do better than a D on your paper if you do not reference properly. This means you will have a reference for almost every single sentence!!! Statements of fact/information that do not have a reference will count against your score. The only sentences that should not have references are if you draw your own conclusions ("This data suggests that a correlation between X and Y could be due to…"), or transitional sentences between subjects (e.g. "There are other sources of inflammation as well. For instance…"). Again, pay attention to the writing in your articles. Note how just about every sentence in the Introduction sections has a reference! This is what you should emulate.

Thesis: **10 pts** A clearly stated objective at the beginning of the paper, and a clear summary/conclusion at the end.

Clarity/Organization: **30 pts** The paper has a logical flow. All information is presented in clear language with proper grammar. There are no redundancies. There is no conflicting information, or if there is conflicting information, the author points this out and explains why that is the case.

Accuracy: **20 pts** The information is accurate, and correctly interprets the articles reviewed.

Citations: **40 pts** Every statement of fact that is not common knowledge must have a reference. You should model your writing after the articles you are reading. Note how virtually every sentence in the introduction section has at least one reference. The only sentences that do not are when the author summarizes that information with their own statement, or transition sentences between paragraphs. Referenes must appear in a list at after the end of your paper, and the references must use a proper **bibliographic format**. Use any of the formats in the class text or in the articles you are reading. But pick one format and be consistent in using that same format for all sources cited.