Bioscience 1511
Writing Practicum

The purpose of this course is to learn to read and write about scientific concepts.

In this class, you are to research 2 articles related to the 1510 Cell Biology Lab course. They must be research articles, not review articles. I am pretty flexible about the topics, but they must be cell biology related.

Please send your article titles to me by Thursday, Sept 22nd.

I will make first draft of the paper due Oct. 28th. This draft isn’t graded, but I will return it to you with comments and discuss it with you in detail. But the more work you put into it, the less revision is needed for the final version, which is graded.

Revise the draft and return it as a final by Nov. 30th.

The class does not meet as a group, but students and I will meet at various times during the semester.

This is what I expect in the final document.

**Introduction:** A brief introduction into the state of the research field prior to the publication of the chosen articles. This section should be about 3 double-spaced pages.

**Results:** Discuss the articles in the context of the introduction. How do these article advance the field? Try to pick two article related to each other, so you can tie them together. Otherwise, you have to do each separately. This section should be about 8-10 pages in total. In the Results, you will rely closely on the author’s interpretation, but use your own words.

**Discussion.** I want this to totally be your own thoughts. Don’t recapitulate the discussion of the papers. Just use your own ideas. But you can take many angles. You can speculate about the significance, or criticize the conclusions of the authors, or expand on the conclusions to broader topics. What I am grading on is whether you understand the material enough to discuss it and can write clearly about your ideas. The total here is about 5-10 pages.

The expected final total is around 20 double-spaced pages.
FAQ:

**I don’t know where to start?**

Pick a topic that interests you most.

Look through the abstracts to find a paper that seems to be interesting to you. Read through the data and decide if you can understand the points they make. Then re-search PubMed adding some new key words to narrow your search to a related paper.

Or …

When the abstract first comes up on PubMed, look to the right and see their suggestion of related articles.

Or …

Look through the introduction of the first paper for other related papers.

Or …

Come see me for suggestions.

Please be familiar with this important information. These are standard policies that you may have seen in other classes.

Cheating/plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students suspected of violating the University of Pittsburgh Policy on Academic Integrity, from the February 1974 Senate Committee on Tenure and Academic Freedom reported to the Senate Council, will be required to participate in the outlined procedural process as initiated by the instructor. A minimum sanction of a zero score for the quiz or exam will be imposed.

View the complete policy at [www.cfo.pitt.edu/policies/policy/02/02-03-02.html](http://www.cfo.pitt.edu/policies/policy/02/02-03-02.html).

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Office of Disability Resources and Services, 140 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890/412-624-3346 (Fax), as early as possible in the term. Disability Resources and Services will verify
your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course. For more information, visit [www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/drsabout](http://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/drsabout).